

Chairmanship: Russian Federation

859th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 July 2017

Opened: 10.20 a.m.
Closed: 12.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Vorobiev

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE DATE OF THE 2017 MEETING OF
THE HEADS OF VERIFICATION CENTRES

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 4/17 (FSC.DEC/4/17) on the date of the 2017 meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE USE OF THE OSCE
COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO SUPPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF PERMANENT COUNCIL
DECISIONS No. 1039, No. 1106 AND No. 1202

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 5/17 (FSC.DEC/5/17) on the use of the OSCE Communications Network to support implementation of Permanent Council Decisions No. 1039, No. 1106 and No. 1202, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/201/17), Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process

and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/199/17), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation, Netherlands

Agenda item 4: CLOSING STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR
MIKHAIL ULYANOV, DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT FOR NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS
CONTROL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control (Russian Federation) (Annex), Estonia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/200/17), United States of America, Austria, Switzerland, Belarus, Slovakia, Armenia, Ukraine, Germany, Serbia

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Decision by the Council of the European Union, adopted on 11 July 2017, in support of OSCE projects on chemical safety and security in Ukraine:* Estonia-European Union (FSC.DEL/198/17)
- (b) *Consolidated report on the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (FSC.GAL/81/17):* FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Montenegro)
- (c) *Request by Tajikistan on 17 July 2017 to conduct an inspection of a specified area of Belarus, planned for 1 August 2017:* Latvia
- (d) *Matters of protocol:* Greece, Serbia, Poland, Sweden, Spain, Netherlands, Chairperson
- (e) *Concluding remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 6 September 2017, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/865

19 July 2017

Annex

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

859th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 865, Agenda item 4

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me on behalf of the Russian Federation Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to extend a warm welcome to everyone assembled in this room. I am pleased to be here once again today to take stock of the results of almost three months of work of the Forum under the Russian Chairmanship and to hand over to the delegation of Serbia, which will be at the helm of the FSC during the very important four months after the summer recess in the OSCE's work.

Long before we assumed the FSC Chairmanship, we regarded it as one of the main priorities of the Russian Federation in the Organization's work for 2017. Our approach was to seek consensus by finding agreement on the basis of mutual benefit, focusing on open and constructive dialogue on a wide range of European security problems.

Our delegation endeavoured to take a responsible and comprehensive approach to arranging this work. In preparing the timetable of plenary meetings and exercising the functions of the Chairmanship in general, we have endeavoured to adhere to a politically neutral, balanced and, at the same time, diverse agenda, continuing the path taken by our predecessors in the Chairmanship and playing the role of an impartial and honest broker.

We have attempted to combine traditional questions under the FSC mandate with topics on which Russia has gained considerable positive experience that we would like to share. These include, for example, the problem of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and the destruction of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), improving export control mechanisms, including with respect to the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, and preventing military incidents. Here, we see a good opportunity to use the FSC as a much-needed platform for sharing the best practices that the participating States have accumulated.

Following the experience of previous Chairmanships in organizing the discussion of various regional and subregional aspects of security in the OSCE area and taking into account the interest shown by many delegations in the work of the Shanghai Cooperation

Organisation (SCO), we invited its Secretary General and the Director of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure. Their statements, delivered within the framework of the OSCE for the first time, as it seems to us, fitted seamlessly into the fabric of co-operation that has emerged recently between the Secretariats and units of the two organizations, first and foremost in countering terrorism.

Judging by the responses, the detailed statements by the Deputy Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the representative of its Secretariat generated considerable interest. We hope that this discussion has contributed to a better understanding by our partners of the objectives, tasks and main areas of work of the CSTO and to the development of its co-operation with the OSCE.

In co-ordination with the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, we have endeavoured to do all we can to facilitate the development of the Structured Dialogue on European Security, organizing a joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council on this subject. During that meeting, delegations were able to familiarize themselves with the report by the Chairperson of the Informal Working Group, Ambassador Eberhard Pohl of Germany, on the interim results of the first six months of work. In the run-up to the informal ministerial meeting in Mauerbach, delegations exchanged views on a wide range of issues forming the basis of the participating States' concerns and outlined ways to move forward in this process. In general, the first stage of the Structured Dialogue showed that it is needed by the OSCE participating States, including as an independent measure for strengthening trust and reducing tension.

The topic of SALW and SCA remains one of the priorities and has thus been one of the permanent items on the Forum's agenda over a period of many years. In the current difficult situation, this area of the FSC's work has become perhaps one of the most promising, especially in terms of project activities. This was also reflected in the declaration adopted on this subject at the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Hamburg. We therefore believed it was highly appropriate to discuss preventing the uncontrolled spread of SALW during one of the Security Dialogues. Another FSC meeting devoted to the exchange of national and international experience in the disposal of conventional ammunition stockpiles also generated a positive response and confirmed the pressing need for a rapid solution to the problems that obsolete ammunition pose to broad sections of the population, including women and children. We hope that the subsequent FSC Chairmanships and participating States will continue to pay attention to the vital issues of ensuring the safe storage and proper disposal of SALW and SCA. In that connection, we wish the delegation of Serbia every success in organizing and holding a special event in October to review the implementation of OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA.

In the context of the exchange of the positive national experience gained by OSCE participating States in the various spheres of the politico-military dimension, we should like, in particular, to mention the meeting devoted to the prevention of military incidents on and over the high seas. Despite the differences in approaches to a number of issues connected with ensuring safety at sea and in the air, the discussion proved, in the opinion of a number of delegations, to be timely and necessary and made it possible to draw attention to the existing bilateral agreements in this area.

The exchange of views on United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 confirmed its important role and relevance and showed the positive evolution in its implementation in the OSCE area and the willingness of the OSCE participating States to engage in open dialogue and co-operation in this area. It would be in all our interests to continue work to develop reliable national export control systems, including in the context of implementing the provisions of resolution 1540. The interest shown by delegations in this topic confirms the likelihood that it will remain a prominent item on the FSC agenda. We hope that the exchange of experience and best practices in facilitating the implementation of resolution 1540 will help to create reliable export control mechanisms in the OSCE participating States and the OSCE Partners for Co-operation.

In view of the considerable interest shown by participants at last year's High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar in the impact of scientific and technological progress, we made provision for a separate meeting on this topic. This subject was considered in an expanded context possibly for the first time in the Forum. We see this as a benefit from the point of view of filling dialogue with food for thought, concrete facts and issues requiring further discussion.

Overall, seven Security Dialogues were organized by the Russian Federation, at which nine representatives of various international organizations and seven high-ranking experts from national government bodies in four OSCE participating States gave presentations. We consider this to be a decent result.

Interesting and important annual events such as the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) and the sixth meeting devoted to the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security coincided with the Russian Chairmanship. Intensive dialogue on the challenges and prospects of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures took place during the session of the ASRC on this topic. We also note the serious and fruitful discussion on the role of the Code of Conduct and the implementation of this important OSCE document in the current conditions, and the detailed reports by delegations on the experience of national implementation. In particular, the importance of the Code of Conduct in ensuring an atmosphere of trust in the politico-military sphere and support for its continued implementation by the participating States were confirmed.

Guided by the principle of impartiality in carrying out our Chairmanship duties, we primarily focused on building a discussion in the FSC meetings under the agenda item "General Statements", within the framework of which the discussion on the situation in Ukraine continued, providing an opportunity for all interested delegations to express their points of view and respond to the questions raised.

Among the undoubted achievements of the Forum's work during the summer session was the adoption of three important decisions. The first two will enable timely preparations to begin for the meeting on 3 and 4 October to review the implementation of OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA, and also for the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres on 13 and 14 December, and a third paves the way for using the OSCE Communications Network to exchange information on cybersecurity.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have three months of intensive work behind us. It is up to our partners to judge how successful the Russian Chairmanship has been, but if our modest contribution could hasten the transition to constructive co-operation and greater mutual understanding only by one day, this would already be a positive development.

Much of what has been achieved would have been impossible without the active and comprehensive support on the part of our distinguished colleagues. We have co-operated closely in the FSC Troika meetings with the previous Romanian Chairmanship and the incoming Serbian Chairmanship and with the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, the co-ordinators and various departments of the OSCE Secretariat.

We say a big thank you to our distinguished colleagues from the delegation of Romania, which is leaving the Troika, for generously sharing their wealth of experience with us. The high standard in the exercise of authority set by the Romanian Chairmanship in terms of filling the Security Dialogue with content, the number of invited speakers, the level of co-operation with the media and the general public, and the responsible approach to carrying out the Chairmanship functions served as a positive example for us and a good guideline. We have studied attentively and with great interest the document prepared by our Romanian colleagues “Chairperson’s Perception Paper: Conclusions for the FSC’s Future Work” of 3 May and have endeavoured as far as possible to put these recommendations into practice.

We wish our friends from the delegation of Serbia every success in their work. A number of important events will take place during their Chairmanship, and in autumn the difficult work will begin on preparing the FSC’s contribution to the holding of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vienna. We should like to assure our Serbian colleagues that they can count on our full support.

We also welcome the delegation of Slovakia as the new member of the Troika and should like to wish them every success.

We are deeply grateful to the delegation of Austria – the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, which has helped us with advice and deeds. During our work in the Forum, our Austrian colleagues organized and held a number of interesting and useful events within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE. In that context, we should like to recall the Intersessional Dialogue on Military Doctrines, a second politico-military retreat to discuss confidence- and security-building measures, the Breakout Workshop on simulating an evaluation visit under the Vienna Document, as well as a working session of the ASRC devoted to the Structured Dialogue.

Our words of gratitude also go to all our distinguished speakers, guests and delegations, who have taken an active part in the work of the FSC and its working groups and who have provided us with all possible assistance.

On behalf of the Russian Chairmanship, I should like to thank our distinguished co-ordinators for their tireless help and their contribution to ensuring smooth work. Allow me to mention each of them by name:

- Ms. Tiphaine Jouffroy, *chef de file* for the preparation of the Forum's contribution to the 2017 Annual Security Review Conference;
- Ms. Isa Ghivarelli, Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325;
- Colonel Hans Georg Lüber, Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document;
- Colonel László Szatmári, Co-ordinator for Projects on Small arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- Colonel Ville Pouttu, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (let me also congratulate you on being awarded the rank of colonel);
- Mr. Vasily Pavlov, FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues;
- Lieutenant Commander Vučić Bošković, Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

We thank the leadership of the OSCE Secretariat, Secretary General Lamberto Zannier, who recently left this post, the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, the various operational departments of the Secretariat, Conference Services, and in particular the FSC Support Section for their valuable advice and extremely professional assistance to our delegation during its Chairmanship.

We have endeavoured to carry out our work in this post transparently and, following the example of our Romanian colleagues, to co-operate closely with the department of the OSCE Secretariat responsible for interaction with the media. Thanks to this, we have managed to highlight the work of the Forum on the OSCE's website and draw the attention of the site's visitors to it. For example, users of social media such as Facebook and Twitter have shown considerable interest in the relevant thematic publications, actively sharing them in the information space. A number of delegations posted links to material devoted to the opening session chaired by Russia on their Twitter accounts. A total of 13,518 followers shared the comments made by the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russia, Sergey Ryabkov, on the occasion on the start of the FSC Chairmanship. The statements by the representative of the SCO on 10 May were of interest to 10,192 followers of the OSCE's Twitter account. Seven press releases on the results of FSC meetings were published on the OSCE website and scored over 500 hits. Particular thanks for this work go to all the staff of the Communication and Media Relations Section.

The practice of enabling groups of visitors from military academies and other academic institutions from a number of OSCE countries to attend FSC plenary meetings was continued. During the current session, five groups consisting of 136 people in total attended Forum meetings.

In concluding my statement, I should like to express our deep gratitude to our esteemed interpreters for their invaluable contribution to our communication process. It is difficult to imagine all our work without their truly stoic efforts.

Finally, I should like to thank my colleagues – the members of the Delegation to the Vienna Negotiations on Military Security and Arms Control, and also those who support them from the capital city – for the contribution over many months to the preparation and exercise of the responsible function of chairing the Forum.

Concluding my statement on this positive note, I should like to wish all those present in this room every success and a pleasant holiday during the summer recess.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that my statement be appended to the journal of the day.



859th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 865, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 4/17
DATE OF THE 2017 MEETING OF THE HEADS OF
VERIFICATION CENTRES**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Reaffirming that the OSCE Vienna Document 2011 (VD 2011) remains a key instrument for confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), and noting that the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) provides an important forum for discussing the implementation of agreed measures under the provisions of the VD 2011,

Taking note of the discussions conducted and views expressed during the twenty-seventh AIAM,

Recognizing that the aim of the Meeting of Heads of Verification Centres is to exchange experiences and information on technical aspects of the implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures,

Decides:

1. To call for a Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres to be held in Vienna, starting on 13 December 2017 in the afternoon and continuing on 14 December in the morning;
2. To task the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) to prepare and chair the Meeting;
3. To task the CPC to report on the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres at the opening session of the twenty-eighth AIAM.



859th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 865, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 5/17
USE OF THE OSCE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK TO SUPPORT
IMPLEMENTATION OF PERMANENT COUNCIL
DECISIONS No. 1039, No. 1106 AND No. 1202

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Recalling the Section I, subsection (B) of the OSCE Communications Network Document, annexed to FSC Decision No. 5/99 of 6 October 1999, according to which the participating States commit themselves to connect to the network for communications between States concerning treaty and agreement notifications as well as other OSCE-related matters,

Reaffirming the importance of the network for the successful implementation of agreements and treaties,

Recalling Permanent Council Decisions No. 1106 and No. 1202, on OSCE confidence-building measures in the field of security of and in the use of information and communication technologies,

Recognizing that the operationalization of select confidence-building measures can be facilitated and enhanced by making use of existing communication channels, such as the OSCE Communications Network,

Decides:

To approve the use of the OSCE Communications Network, as governed by the Communications Group, for efforts to address security of and in the use of information and communication technologies in line with Permanent Council Decisions No. 1039, No. 1106 and No. 1202, upon the identification of contact centres/points for cyber/ICT security-related communications within capitals;

To task the Communications Group with the technical implementation of this decision, in consultation with the informal working group established by Permanent Council Decision No. 1039, which will elaborate the operational requirements in the implementation of the confidence-building measures of Permanent Council Decisions No. 1106 and No. 1202;

To task the Communications Group to ensure that the introduction of new requirements does not hinder in any way the services provided to the OSCE participating States in the politico-military dimension.