

Chairmanship: Finland

555th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 10 September 2008

Opened: 11 a.m.

Closed: 12.15 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. M. Kangaste

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY THE FINNISH
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE FSC

Director General and Head of the Defence Policy Department of the Ministry of Defence of Finland (Annex 1), France-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/143/08 OSCE+), Armenia, Armenia (also on behalf of Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan) (Annex 2) (SEC.DEL/243/08 OSCE+) (SEC.DEL/244/08 OSCE+), United States of America, Georgia (Annex 3), Estonia, Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Matters of protocol*: Albania, Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Austria, Poland, Sweden, Slovakia, Spain, Denmark, Montenegro, Chairperson

- (b) *Briefing by the Conflict Prevention Centre for new members of delegations, to be held on 18 September 2008:* Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Monthly report for August of the CPC on major implementation activities:* Conflict Prevention Centre
- (d) *Handbook of best practices on conventional ammunition:* Conflict Prevention Centre, Chairperson
- (e) *Appointment of the new chairperson of the OSCE Communications Group:* Conflict Prevention Centre
- (f) *Organizational matters:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 17 September 2008, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/561
10 September 2008
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

555th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 561, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and honour for me to address you today as Finland assumes the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation for the third session of 2008.

At the outset, I wish to congratulate Estonia on having conducted a very successful Chairmanship and look forward to our continued co-operation in the Troika. I also wish to express our gratitude to the outgoing Troika member, Spain, and welcome the incoming member, France.

The politico-military situation in the OSCE area has changed dramatically since the hostilities broke out in South Ossetia, Georgia, in August. As holder of the OSCE Chairmanship, Finland has done its utmost to defuse tensions, negotiate a ceasefire, and promote conflict settlement. After fighting escalated on 8 August, the Chairman-in-Office Foreign Minister Mr. Alexander Stubb travelled to Tbilisi and Moscow with the aim of negotiating an immediate ceasefire and paving the way for humanitarian action.

Here in Vienna, special Permanent Council meetings have been convened frequently to discuss the situation in Georgia and to brief the participating States about the activities of the OSCE Chairmanship.

On 19 August, after intense negotiations, the OSCE Permanent Council decided to increase the number of Military Monitoring Officers in Georgia by up to 100. It was decided that 20 additional officers would be deployed immediately to monitor the ceasefire. The Chairmanship is currently consulting on the modalities for the remaining 80 additional monitors and hopes to reach an agreement soon.

In its national capacity, Finland will participate actively in the monitoring operation. We are prepared to send up to ten Military Monitoring Officers, the first two of whom are already in the area.

The efforts of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office are now focused on how the OSCE — together with other international actors — can help to strengthen the ceasefire and launch international negotiations aimed at a peaceful settlement.

The crisis in Georgia is also a challenge for the arms control and confidence-building regimes upheld by the OSCE and the FSC. Our focus should now be firmly on how to ensure the effective implementation of these regimes in the new situation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our main priorities for the OSCE politico-military dimension have already been outlined in the programme of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship of January 2008. I believe that they have lost none of their validity in the present security situation.

Finland will strive to deepen the Forum's security dialogue, the recent revitalization of which we welcome heartily. The FSC is uniquely placed to debate all European security issues: its mandate should be utilized to the full.

Finland seeks to intensify the implementation of existing politico-military agreements and calls on all participating States to fulfil their commitments at all times. The Vienna Document 1999, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and the Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remain the basic normative documents of our Forum.

We will work to intensify OSCE activities in the area of SALW and surplus ammunition. Co-ordination and co-operation between organizations is of crucial importance if we want to address the problem of illicit small arms effectively and improve human security.

Making headway on SALW issues at global level takes time, as was demonstrated by the recent Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) on the UN Programme of Action. The OSCE has been at the vanguard of the global fight against the scourge of small arms, and we should seek to maintain our position. We have invited representatives of relevant think-tanks to give their views on how the OSCE could bring added value. We hope this will facilitate discussions in the FSC aiming at a Ministerial tasking to continue the work related to SALW and SCA issues. In this context we might want to subject our SALW-related work to a comprehensive review.

Finland will also focus FSC attention on human rights in the armed forces. This cross-dimensional issue will be a theme of a joint FSC-PC meeting, scheduled for 29 October.

As Chair of the FSC we are also ready to pursue new proposals related to politico-military commitments, provided that these are widely supported by the participating States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have circulated an indicative schedule for meetings under our Chairmanship (FSC.INF/11/08 22 July). Our intention is to give the delegations and the Forum the opportunity to concentrate on preparations for the Helsinki Ministerial Meeting in November.

We also propose to continue the general practice of inviting our Partners for Co-operation to attend not only our plenary meetings but also the Working Groups, as observers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is the task of the Finnish Delegation to lead the preparations for the Helsinki Ministerial Council with the particular aim of preparing a significant FSC contribution. As Chair, Finland will act in a proactive and transparent manner, and engage in close interaction with all participating States. We count on your co-operation in our common endeavour. Our delegation in Vienna is looking forward to working with you closely.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that in accordance with the Vienna Document, Finland will organize a visit to an airbase and military facility from 23 to 26 September 2008. So you will have a unique opportunity to visit Northern Finland before the Ministerial Council in Helsinki!

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/561
10 September 2008
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

555th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 561, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN, KYRGYZSTAN,
UZBEKISTAN, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND TAJIKISTAN)**

Attaching as they do particular importance to the comprehensive strengthening of the politico-military dimension of security in the OSCE area, the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) believe it necessary to ensure that the Forum make a solid contribution to the preparations for and holding of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki, among other ways by presenting three detailed and comprehensive reports — on arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and on small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, as provided for in Decision No. 3/07 of the Madrid Ministerial Council meeting on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-Operation.

The CSTO member States are pleased to note that recently the Forum's work has shown signs of something of a revival. In particular, the agenda has become more balanced, greater emphasis has been placed on the security dialogue, and there have been more intensive discussions on the question of developing new confidence- and security-building measures. The Forum has begun to pay considerable attention to improving the implementation of existing CSBMs, and a number of specific decisions have been adopted to that end.

Building on this positive trend, it is essential to strengthen the Forum's contribution to the improvement and development of the pan-European regime of confidence- and security-building measures. In that context, the CSTO member States are convinced of the need to step up efforts to agree on a Forum decision regarding the exchange of information on multinational rapid-reaction forces.

It is difficult to find a logical explanation for the fact that naval forces still remain outside the framework of the current CSBM regime. It would be in the interests of strengthening pan-European security to develop CSBMs in the naval area as soon as possible. Proposals along these lines were circulated by the delegation of the Russian Federation to the OSCE on 2 July of this year.

The CSTO member States believe that it is also time to deal with the question of making prior notifications on major military activities a politically binding obligation.

It is important to ensure the effective implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. The activities of OSCE participating States in assisting one another in the disposal of surplus SALW and conventional ammunition, including the rocket fuel component “melange”, along with co-operation in managing stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition and in introducing better security arrangements for their storage deserve to be supported and further developed.

In the light of the positive experience gained from the holding of the special FSC meeting on existing and future arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in October 2007, the CSTO member States believe it would be useful to hold a similar event in the spring of 2009.

We believe it necessary to prepare for adoption at the Ministerial Council meeting in Helsinki the draft of a new Ministerial decision on the work of the Forum in accordance with its mandate.

The CSTO member States are ready to co-operate closely with the other OSCE participating States to resolve these issues.



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

FSC.JOUR/561
10 September 2008
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

555th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 561, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Georgian delegation I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Finland as incoming chair of the FSC and to France as the new member of the FSC Troika. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Spain as the outgoing Troika member for their good collaboration and expertise. I would like to express particular appreciation for the work done by the previous Chairmanship, Estonia, which gave effective leadership and input during its term in office. Here I should also thank the Conflict Prevention Centre for their work throughout the year.

Mr. Chairperson,

This year is of special importance to your delegation, since in addition to chairing the Organization as a whole, you have the honour of chairing the FSC for the last third of the year, which is definitely not an easy task given the dramatic change in the politico-military situation in the OSCE area. I will come back to this issue in just a moment.

As far as your future plans are concerned, I fully agree with you that the priorities outlined in the programme of the Finnish OSCE Chairmanship of January 2008 have lost none of their validity in the present security situation. We fully share the views expressed in your statement regarding the priorities of the Forum for the rest of the year. Therefore I should like to assure you and the other members of the FSC Troika, and all other delegations, of our co-operation in pursuing the objectives proposed in your programme and in your statement today, particularly in view of the upcoming Ministerial Council in Helsinki.

Now, Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to touch upon the situation in my country. As you mentioned, the crisis in Georgia, more particularly its occupation, has been and will be thoroughly discussed by the Permanent Council. However, we feel obliged to provide the FSC community with further information on the developments in this conflict, as my delegation maintains its firm intention of improving the synergy between the Permanent Council and the Forum.

Given that this is the first meeting of the Forum in the autumn session, I will restrict myself to giving you only brief information on the current situation in my country. In order to save time, we decided to distribute detailed information regarding this conflict to all the FSC delegations. However, we reserve the right to discuss this issue in the near future in the framework of the security dialogue.

The situation after the recent aggression on the part of the Russian Federation and its subsequent occupation of sovereign territories of Georgia is still quite grave. Not only military but also civilian and economic infrastructure has been seriously damaged by the Russian invasion. Russian troops are still deployed in Georgia without any legal ground. The presence the Russian Federation is establishing in the Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia, Georgia and Abkhazia, Georgia, is military and not peacekeeping in character. The ethnic cleansing that has taken place in the last days is still continuing, with Georgian villages being burnt and Georgians being expelled from their places of residence in and outside the Tskhinvali region.

Furthermore, allow me to draw your attention to the fact of the indiscriminate use of different types of heavy conventional weapons against civilians and non-military targets in Georgia. First of all, the Georgian side possesses evidence proving that Russian forces of occupation have made extensive use of the following types of weaponry: the missile system 9M72 “Iskander” (SS-26 Stone), the short-range tactical ballistic missiles “Tochka-U” (SS-21 Scarab), the multiple-launch rocket systems “Grad” and “Uragan”, and various kinds of cluster munitions, incendiary weapons and the like.

On top of this, as you all know, President Medvedev has unilaterally recognized the independence of the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, thus not only legitimizing previous and ongoing acts of ethnic cleansing condemned by the OSCE summits in Budapest, Lisbon and Istanbul, but also destroying the very foundations of international law. These acts on the part of the Russian Federation represent serious blows to the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and to the UN Charter.

Following the aforesaid decision, the Government of Georgia decided to cease the so-called “peacekeeping operations” in Abkhazia and the former autonomous province of South Ossetia, and to immediately terminate any grounds for the presence of the armed forces of the Russian Federation on the territory of Georgia.

At the same time, the Parliament of Georgia has made a decision to declare the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia and the former Autonomous Region of South Ossetia to be territories occupied by the Russian Federation and to declare the Russian armed forces currently deployed on the territory of Georgia, including the so-called peacekeeping force, to be occupying military units. We have also cut off diplomatic relations with the Russian Federation, leaving only a consulate operating in Moscow.

We did not want to take these steps, but the full-scale aggression on the part of the Russian Federation and its cascade of unfriendly acts culminating in the recognition of independence of Georgian territories have left us no choice.

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community should realize that it is not only Georgia that is threatened by what is now happening. What we are witnessing now is an attempt on the part of the Russian Federation to revive the totalitarian Soviet empire and, even more alarmingly, to call into question the established world order by acts such as reshaping State borders in Europe.

We would like to thank the European Union, the United States and other actors, especially the OSCE participating states, for expressing strong support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia and for condemning the illegal and dangerous steps taken by the Russian Federation.

At the same time, I have to note separately that at this moment the six-point ceasefire agreement mediated by the French President is still being severely violated by the Russian Federation. Russia has disregarded this agreement from the very first day of its existence, despite the fact that Georgia has done everything to comply with its provisions in good faith.

To be more specific, the Russian Federation has not withdrawn its military forces to the places of their permanent deployment as foreseen in point 5 of the ceasefire agreement. There are currently up to 17,000 Russian troops deployed on the territory of Georgia, around 1,000 of them located outside the conflict regions. The Russian Federation's presence extends well beyond the conflict zones, even to such places as Poti — the main Georgian seaport — and Senaki.

In this regard, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to the President of France and the EU for their tireless efforts to intervene again and bring about full implementation of the six-point ceasefire agreement. We commend the visit of President Sarkozy to Moscow and his moves to negotiate a solution to this problem with the President of the Russian Federation. At the same time we deeply regret that such additional measures were needed to achieve implementation of the agreement by the Russian side, which should have taken place immediately upon its conclusion.

Finally, we urge the Russian side to respect all of its obligations as agreed with the EU Presidency and to ensure the full and timely implementation of all clauses of the six-point ceasefire agreement.

I have just been informed by my colleague that this morning a Georgian policeman was shot from the checkpoint of the Russian so-called peacekeepers near the village of Karaleti. It is very unfortunate that the obligation of the Russian President to effect a ceasefire is not being observed by soldiers on the ground. I guess it is another clear demonstration of how seriously Russia takes its obligations.