

Chairmanship: Slovenia

887th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 20 June 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.45 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 5.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Benedejčič

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE DATE OF THE 2018 MEETING OF
THE HEADS OF VERIFICATION CENTRES

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 3/18 (FSC.DEC/3/18) on the date of the 2018 Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE DATES OF THE BIENNIAL MEETING
TO ASSESS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE
DOCUMENTS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS
AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 4/18 (FSC.DEC/4/18) on the dates of the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: SECURITY DIALOGUE: REGIONAL MILITARY
CO-OPERATION

- *Presentation by Mr. L. D’Addario, Ministry of Defence of Italy, Chair of the Political-Military Steering Group of the Multinational Land Force (MLF)*
- *Presentation by Mr. K. Malinkovski, Ministry of Defence of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Chairman of the Steering Board of the Balkan Medical Task Force (BMTF)*
- *Presentation by Mr. G. Zupan, Head of Multilateral Defence Relations, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia*
- *Presentation by Ms. B. Balon, Co-ordinator, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), author of the UNDP/SEESAC project Support for Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans*

Chairperson, Mr. L. D’Addario, Mr. K. Malinkovski, Mr. G. Zupan, Ms. B. Balon, Bulgaria-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 country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/123/18), Finland (also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden) (Annex 1), Hungary (Annex 2), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia (FSC.DEL/119/18 OSCE+), United States of America, Albania, Ukraine, Turkey

Point of order: the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia

Agenda item 4: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine, Bulgaria-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/124/18), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation, Netherlands
- (b) *Obligation for the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Russian Federation’s forces from the territory of Moldova*: Moldova (FSC.DEL/120/18 OSCE+), Russian Federation, United States of America, Ukraine, Romania, United Kingdom

Agenda item 5: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Completion of the Belarus-OSCE joint project on the disposal of liquid rocket fuel components:* Belarus (FSC.DEL/122/18), FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)
- (b) *Letter from the Secretary General of the OSCE to the United Nations announcing the publication of the OSCE best practice guide on the deactivation of small arms and light weapons:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Request for clarification about a military exercise in the Russian Federation:* United Kingdom, United States of America, Russian Federation
- (d) *Letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council on the FSC's contribution to the 2018 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) (FSC.DEL/121/18 OSCE+):* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 4 July 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



887th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 893, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FINLAND
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF DENMARK, ICELAND,
NORWAY AND SWEDEN)**

Mr. Chairperson,

Speaking also on behalf of Denmark, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, we highly value the regional aspect of security as today's topic for the Security Dialogue and I'm very pleased to contribute and inform you about the Nordic Defence Co-operation (NORDEFECO).

We would like to thank the speakers for presenting truly interesting perspectives on the regional military co-operation and current security situation in Europe.

As Nordic countries are relatively small, it makes sense to co-operate in order to make full use of our resources and capabilities. Moreover, co-operation is an arena for learning and exchanging experiences. It also leads to increased transparency between our countries and in the wider context as well.

Although the Vikings were already co-operating more than a thousand years ago, the Nordic defence co-operation of today was officially launched in the 1960s but gained momentum with the establishment of NORDEFECO in 2009 as an overarching structure for Nordic co-operation in defence. The Nordic Defence Co-operation Memorandum of Understanding is based on the idea that we can gain much through joint solutions, joint actions, and cost sharing. NORDEFECO is not a military alliance and does not affect Member States' obligations in relation to organizations such as the United Nations, the European Union and NATO.

Nordic co-operation and NORDEFECO enjoys strong political and public support in all five Nordic countries. Furthermore, NORDEFECO is not only a platform for exchanging information and for discussions on topics of common interest but also seeks to enhance operational effect and the quality of operations in peacetime. A significant achievement in this regard was the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Easy Access for the Nordic countries in the air, land and sea domain in peacetime, in 2016. Furthermore, a memorandum of understanding concerning Nordic co-operation for air surveillance information exchange was signed last year at the fall ministerial meeting in Helsinki.

The military level of NORDEFECO is divided into five “Cooperation Areas” (“COPAs”) subordinate to the Military Coordination Committee (MCC).

The “COPAs” are manned with senior representatives from each of the countries on the military level. These representatives hold relevant national decision-making authority and an appropriate mandate in order to fulfil the tasks given to the specific area.

The main task of the “COPAs” is to co-ordinate between the nations within their area. The “COPAs” can decide to commence working groups for specific activities and the working groups will report back their results and recommendations on how to achieve positive effects within the activity.

The recommendations from the “COPAs” form the basis for the agreements that are made in the Military Coordination Committee and the Policy Steering Committee.

The five “Cooperation Areas” are:

- Capabilities (COPA CAPA);
- Human Resources & Education (COPA HR&E);
- Training & Exercises (COPA TR&EX);
- Operations (COPA OPS);
- Armaments (COPA ARMA).

The Peace Support Operations education and training programme is a Nordic success story. By dividing the responsibility for the different types of courses between the Nordic countries, it has been possible to reach a high international level.

As a very practical example, since the 1960s, tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians from all over the world have taken the various courses at the Nordic training centres: military police and civil-military co-operation specialists in Denmark; military observers, liaison officers and military advisers in Finland; staff officers in Sweden; and logistic specialists in Norway.

Another example is that at the end of 2017 a contract notice was published on a Nordic Combat Uniform which will enable joint procurement by Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden of a complete battle dress uniform system. We hope that in the future we will be able to save costs through similar procurements that are of mutual interest and appropriate to carry out as joint procurements.

The Nordic-Baltic Assistance Programme (NBAP) is an umbrella for Nordic-Baltic defence capacity-building in third countries. In 2017 NBAP co-operation continued in three clusters:

- Support to the Joint Training and Evaluation Centre (JTEC) in Georgia (Co-ordinator: Norway);

- Cyber support to Georgia and Ukraine with main focus in Georgia (Co-ordinator: Estonia);
- Anti-corruption support to Ukraine (Co-ordinator: Denmark).

Mr. Chairperson,

The Nordic countries share similar histories, culture and languages. Our societies are not markedly different when it comes to politics. The Nordic defence co-operation is evolving and has already lead to positive results and synergies.

Once again, we thank the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship for putting this subject on the agenda, and we are looking forward to developing our co-operation and good relations in the future.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



887th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 893, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF HUNGARY

Mr. Chairperson,

While Hungary aligns itself fully with the EU statement, I would nevertheless like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairperson,

First of all, let me thank the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship for the decision to include regional military co-operation on the FSC agenda. We thank all four distinguished speakers very much for their interesting, comprehensive and thought-provoking presentations.

We especially thank Major General D'Addario for the excellent and very informative presentation on our common endeavour, the Multinational Land Force (MLF).

I would like to emphasize Hungary's appreciation of Italy's role as the lead nation in our co-operation.

We believe that the MLF is one of the best examples of regional co-operation initiatives.

The MLF, the fruit of Italian–Slovenian–Hungarian trilateral co-operation is a real, functional organization not just on the level of amicable talks and discussions, but in practice as well.

Through the common duties exercised in the Balkans and in Afghanistan and the standby periods in EU Battlegroups, the MLF has been forged into a real unit.

Last year, Hungary supported the Italian proposal to extend the regular engagement beyond NATO and the EU and we deployed troops in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon Mission. We have received positive feedback and observations about the new field of co-operation.

Hungary can confirm that the annual high-visibility MLF exercises are providing good opportunities for our troops to implement their knowledge and increase interoperability,

and to be shaped into a unit. We were honoured to host the exercise “Clever Ferret 2017” last year, in which our troops also proved their readiness.

As General D’Addario already mentioned, the MLF also plays a vital role as the nucleus of the Defence Cooperation Initiative, which is deepening and widening the possibilities of regional co-operation.

We also support the idea of and actively work on co-operation among our defence universities.

The MLF affiliation to the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps–Italy and the enlargement to include Croatia and possibly Austria will provide new impetus for further co-operation.

Hungary is supportive of the idea of utilizing the MLF beyond EU Battlegroup duties. This co-operation with a history stretching back two decades is very important for us, and we are committed to continuing it in the future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



887th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 893, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 3/18
DATE OF THE 2018 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-eighth AIAM,

Recognizing that the aim of the Meeting of the 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 the 2018 Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres to be held in Vienna, starting with an afternoon session on 12 December 2018 and continuing in the morning of 13 December 2018;
2. To task the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) with preparing and chairing the meeting;
3. To task the CPC with reporting on the 2018 Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres at the opening session of the twenty-ninth AIAM.



887th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 893, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 4/18
DATES OF THE BIENNIAL MEETING TO ASSESS THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENTS ON SMALL ARMS
AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL
AMMUNITION

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Mindful of the important role of the OSCE in combating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and of its efforts to contribute to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Reaffirming its commitment to strengthening efforts aimed at ensuring the full implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, 20 June 2012), the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1, 23 March 2011), and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (FSC.DEC/2/10, 26 May 2010),

Recalling Section VI of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in which the participating States agreed that the FSC would review regularly, including, as appropriate, through annual review meetings, the implementation of the norms, principles and measures in the document, and agreed to keep its scope and content under regular review and to work on the further development of the document in the light of its implementation and of the work of the United Nations and of other international organizations and institutions, and

Recalling Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 tasking the FSC to consider commencing biennial meetings to assess the implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA; to continue discussing the outcomes of the Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States, in the present instance the forthcoming Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; to continue further steps to improve the efficiency and outcome of SALW and SCA projects to ensure the maximum possible value in dealing with the challenges associated with SALW and SCA in line with the OSCE assistance mechanisms as outlined in the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA and relevant FSC decisions; to further intensify efforts to continue implementing the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW in all its aspects; and to explore

ways to complement the existing OSCE measures aimed at addressing the illicit trafficking of SALW,

Decides to:

1. Organize the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA for 2 and 3 October 2018;
2. Task the OSCE Secretariat with supporting the organization of this meeting;
3. Invite the OSCE participating States to consider providing extrabudgetary contributions for the meeting.