

Chairmanship: Norway

803rd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 November 2015

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 11.45 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Kvile

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

Agenda item 1: JOINT STATEMENT OF THE PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT ON SUB-REGIONAL ARMS CONTROL, ANNEX 1-B, ARTICLE IV OF THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR PEACE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Chairperson, Serbia (also on behalf of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro) (Annex 1), Germany, United States of America, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Italy

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/211/15), Luxembourg-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 and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/210/15), United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 3), Chairperson, Canada

Point of order: Canada

1 Includes a correction in annex 1.

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Note verbale from the Holy See on its unavailability to chair the Forum for Security Co-operation in 2017 (FSC.DEL/209/15 Restr.):* Chairperson
- (b) *Meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be held on 17 November 2015:* Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (Slovenia)
- (c) *Update on the concept note on the OSCE's contribution to the 2016 Comprehensive Review of the Status of Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (FSC.DEL/206/15 OSCE+):* FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator on Non-proliferation Issues (Belarus)
- (d) *Informal meeting on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held on 19 November 2015:* FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Czech Republic)
- (e) *High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar to be held on 16 and 17 February 2016:* Czech Republic, Switzerland, Austria
- (f) *2015 annual exchange of military information and its associated electronic data workshop:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (g) *Co-ordination meeting of project managers on the implementation of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition projects, held on 4 and 5 November 2015:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 November 2015, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal

803rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 809, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA
AND MONTENEGRO)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Ladies and gentlemen,

In my capacity as the current Chair of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission (SRCC), it is my honour and privilege to deliver the present joint statement on behalf of the Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control – Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

At the outset, I would like to express our gratitude to the Norwegian Chairmanship for including this item on the agenda of today's OSCE Forum of Security Co-operation meeting and to the OSCE delegations for the interest they have expressed in being kept informed about the follow-up activities related to the implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, adopted on the basis of Annex 1-B, Article IV, of the Dayton Peace Accords.

Since the signing of the Agreement, which is also known as the Florence Agreement, on 14 June 1996, the OSCE Permanent Council has been regularly informed by the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV about current activities and about the extent to which the Parties have fulfilled the obligations and implemented the Agreement. On this occasion I would like to recall that since 2011 the Personal Representative for Article IV has also been regularly informing the FSC on this subject.

Following the adoption of PC Decision No. 1134 of 6 November 2014 on the "Transfer of ownership to the Parties to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Annex 1-B, Article IV of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the signing of the Amendments by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Parties in Basel on 4 December 2014, the process of transferring the ownership to the Parties has now ended successfully. Having fulfilled his role, the Personal Representative for Article IV handed over his functions on 31 December 2014. Since 1 January 2015 the Parties to the

1 Includes a correction to the text.

Agreement have taken full responsibility and have been carrying out all duties related to the implementation of the Agreement.

In spite of the fact that there is no obligation to submit the Report within the OSCE, the Parties have agreed to continue with this practice. In this connection, we would like to express our gratitude to the OSCE, as our partner in the process, for the contribution it has made by giving assistance and support since the beginning of negotiations on 4 January 1996. Even after concluding the process of transfer of ownership, the OSCE has continued to provide us with administrative and logistic support.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is not the first time that a representative of one of the Parties has submitted a joint statement at the meeting held within the OSCE. As a panellist at the 2015 Annual Security Review Conference, the representative of Croatia, Ms. Sanja Bujas Juraga, presented the main points regarding the activities connected with the implementation of Agreement.

Given that some present today did not have the opportunity to keep in touch with our activities, I would ask the Chairperson to allow me to present briefly some basic points concerning the Agreement.

The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control was negotiated in Vienna on the basis of Article IV, Annex 1-B, of the Dayton Peace Accords, under the auspices of OSCE, in the period January to June 1996. The OSCE from the very beginning paid great attention and put a lot of effort into helping the Parties to succeed in the adoption of the Agreement and, furthermore, to implement it successfully. In this context we consider it important to underline again the effective, constructive and productive support that the OSCE has given to the Parties through the Personal Representative for Article IV during the negotiations and the long period of implementation of the Agreement. The role of the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Article IV was decisive. Thereby, the OSCE has given crucial support to the States of the region in one very sensitive field in particular, namely, arms control. The Agreement was signed on 14 June 1996 in Florence. During the period of negotiations we worked hard together with the Personal Representative to reach a consensus and to find the solutions for setting up a comprehensive arms control regime. Our ability to reach this objective has at the same time contributed to stability in the wider region.

We would also like to underscore the importance of the support given by the Contact Group countries, namely, the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, France, Germany and Italy, during the last 19 years. This support has been crucial for us, not only in the negotiation phase of the Agreement, but also in the implementation phase. We appreciate it very much that Contact Group countries, in the same status of witness, continue to follow our activities on the implementation of the Agreement.

The main point of the adopted measures was to rebuild peace and stability in the region and at the same time to keep the balance by limiting the five categories of heavy weapons. The most sensitive, delicate and crucial phase of the implementation of the Agreement was the reduction phase, or more precisely the period of destruction of surplus weapons. During this phase new limitations for five categories of heavy weapons were made effective in accordance with numerical limitations defined in Article IV of the Agreement.

The Parties succeeded in fulfilling this obligation in an effective and timely manner, paving the way for an arms control regime model that is lasting, sustainable, verifiable and transparent.

I would like to very briefly present some figures regarding the most significant results we have achieved in the past period. The Agreement's 19 years of implementation have seen the destruction of ten thousand pieces of heavy weapons that were limited under the Agreement; more than 700 inspections of declared sites and 130 inspections of reductions have been carried out; all Parties have continued with reductions of armaments on a voluntary basis and have brought their holdings down to under the agreed numerical limitation. The process of downsizing of personnel in defence forces has also continued.

At the same time we have been working intensively on the further updating and modernization of the implementation of the Agreement. This includes the following:

- Thanks to the financial and logistic support of the OSCE, the activities realized under the Agreement are included in the INA/ADS (integrated notification application/automated data system) system;
- The OSCE participating States have been supporting the inspection regime continuously throughout the period of implementation. In the new circumstances following the takeover of ownership of the Agreement, they have continued to be present at this type of activity with the new status of Guest Observer. In this way, the Parties have continued to show strong political interest and willingness to be supportive to the international presence during the activities conducted within the process of implementation;
- The RACVIAC Centre for Security Cooperation plays a very important role in supporting the overall implementation activities and the promotion of the values of the Agreement. The parties of RACVIAC are also included in the practical part of exercise and are thus present at the inspection in the field. At the last workshop held in June 2015, the parties and management of RACVIAC agreed on the necessity to start with consultation and exchange of views regarding the creation of a new type of support in the promotion of value and achievements reached in the arms control field in the post-conflict period, and regarding the building of trust, confidence and a constructive atmosphere.

Mr. Chairperson,

After the successful and timely conclusion of the process of transfer of ownership, we perceive our presence at this FSC meeting as an excellent opportunity to inform you about our achievements and activities since January 2015.

The process of taking over ownership of the Agreement in all its aspects has been a valuable experience for all participants. The transfer of ownership has been a considerable challenge for all of us because of the new range of obligations, which have required higher levels of responsibility and capability.

We are very proud that the Parties have continued to implement the Agreement with same level of responsibility and in as timely and enthusiastic a manner as before. In close co-ordination with the CPC and Major General Michele Torres, we have finalized all the elements necessary for paving the way for a new chapter in this process. Through the co-ordination process we have edited and completed the following relevant documents: the Handbook, to define the framework for conducting implementation of the Agreement in the field; the Addenda, to update the Agreement itself; and the Compendium, for institutional memory.

At the same time, the inspection regime is operating in full accordance with the adopted inspection plan; the meetings of the Permanent Working Group and the SRCC are taking place regularly and with the full involvement of the Parties; and we are continually attending meetings of the other international forums, including those organized within RACVIAC with the aim of support and promoting the Agreement.

In addition, we would like to underline that the Parties work in a completely autonomous manner on planning, organizing, conducting the inspections and analysing their outcomes, with the participation of the guests provided by the OSCE participating States.

After the successful conclusion of the process of transfer of ownership and the signing of the amendments in Basel on 4 December 2014, the Agreement became fully owned by the Parties, after having travelled a long way in less than twenty years since its signing. This year we celebrate twenty years since the adoption of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, better known as the Dayton Peace Accords. Next year, in 2016 we will celebrate another important event: the twentieth anniversary of the signing and successful implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, the Florence Agreement. In 2016 we will also organize a new review conference.

Allow me, Mr. Chairperson, on behalf of the Parties of the Agreement, to confirm our sincere commitment to continuing with the consistent implementation of the Agreement.

We are confident that next year we will have another opportunity to present our progress report at an FSC meeting.

Thank you for your attention.



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

FSC.JOUR/809/Corr.1
11 November 2015
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

803rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 809, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with today's statement by the Russian delegation on the status of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC), the delegation of Ukraine wishes to emphasize the following.

International law prohibits the acquisition of part or all of another State's territory through coercion or force. The Autonomous Republic of Crimea, which remains an integral part of Ukraine, was illegally occupied and annexed by the Russian Federation in violation of OSCE principles and commitments and norms of international law. Illegitimate actions on the part of the Russian Federation do not have any legal consequences with regard to the status of the ARC as an integral part of Ukraine. The territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders is safeguarded by international law and UN General Assembly resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014, "Territorial integrity of Ukraine".

The Russian Federation is now in breach of such fundamental principles of the Helsinki Final Act as sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty, refraining from the threat or use of force, inviolability of frontiers, territorial integrity of States, peaceful settlement of disputes, non-intervention in internal affairs, and fulfilment in good faith of obligations in international law.

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be registered in the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/809/Corr.1
11 November 2015
Annex 3

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

803rd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 809, Agenda item 2

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In connection with the reference to Crimea in the statements by a number of delegations today, the delegation of the Russian Federation feels obliged to make the following observations.

The proclamation of independence of the Republic of Crimea and its incorporation into the Russian Federation was a legal expression of the right of the people of Crimea to self-determination at a time when Ukraine, with outside support, was in the throes of a *coup d'état*, with radical nationalist elements exerting a forceful influence on the decisions adopted in the country, which in turn resulted in the interests of the Ukrainian regions and Russian-speaking population being ignored.

The multi-ethnic population of Crimea took the corresponding decisions by a huge majority in a free and fair expression of its will. The status of the Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol as constituent entities of the Russian Federation is not open to reconsideration or discussion. Crimea is and will remain Russian. This is a fact that our partners will have to come to terms with.

This position is based on and fully complies with international law.

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