

Chairmanship: Russian Federation

851st PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 3 May 2017

Opened: 10.10 a.m.

Closed: 1.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. A. Vorobiev

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

Agenda item 1: OPENING STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR
MIKHAIL ULYANOV, DIRECTOR OF THE
DEPARTMENT FOR NON-PROLIFERATION AND ARMS
CONTROL, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Chairperson, Director of the Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control (Russian Federation) (Annex), Romania, Malta-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 Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/125/17), Austria (FSC.DEL/132/17 OSCE+), Canada, Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/127/17 OSCE+), Belarus (FSC.DEL/129/17 OSCE+), Serbia, Armenia, Switzerland, Mongolia, Turkey, United States of America

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/134/17), Malta-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 and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/126/17), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation

- (b) *Recent military exercise in Azerbaijan and joint tactical exercises by Azerbaijan and Turkey: Armenia* (FSC.DEL/128/17), Turkey, Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/133/17 OSCE+)
- (c) *Completion of a project on the destruction of anti-personnel landmines in Belarus on 5 April 2017: Belarus* (FSC.DEL/130/17 OSCE+)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Briefing on the military exercise “Spring Storm”, to be conducted in Estonia from 8 to 26 May 2017: Estonia* (FSC.DEL/131/17 Restr.), Russian Federation
- (b) *Response by the Russian Federation to the United States Department of State 2016 Report on Adherence to and Compliance With Arms Control, Non-proliferation, and Disarmament Agreements and Commitments: Russian Federation, United States of America, Georgia*

4. Next meeting:

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



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

FSC.JOUR/857

3 May 2017

Annex

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

851st Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 857, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to warmly welcome everybody gathered in this room. It is a great honour for me to be present here today at the first plenary meeting of the Forum under the Russian Chairmanship and to present the programme of work for the next four months.

I am very happy to be back in Vienna, at the OSCE headquarters in the Hofburg, and to immerse myself once again in the creative atmosphere of the politico-military topic, which is very familiar to me from the time when I was directly involved in it. I still have deep respect for the highly professional military personnel and diplomats, who even in today's difficult environment are making a significant contribution to maintaining and strengthening stability among the OSCE participating States.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The current situation in the world and, in particular, in the OSCE area is characterized by growing strategic instability. And it is not only well-known inter-State conflicts. We are facing a multitude of global and regional challenges to security, including international terrorism, the threat of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), transnational crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in human beings, and natural and man-made disasters. We cannot help but be concerned about the state of affairs in regions adjacent to the OSCE area and the serious consequences of conflicts, one of which is the migration crisis in Europe.

It is clear that these negative trends can be overcome only through joint efforts on the part of all States. A most serious dialogue on security issues is needed now more than ever. The other routes lead to a dead end.

Common strategic tasks can, in our view, be solved only on the basis of the principles of equal and indivisible security and openness, the rejection of confrontation or the imposition of ideologies in international relations, while conducting a joint, mutually respectful and in-depth analysis of the problems that have arisen.

We firmly believe that the OSCE occupies a unique place among regional organizations in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian area. It has proved its worth as an international format enabling participating States, even when they have different approaches, to search for new opportunities for the development of co-operation.

We attach particular significance in this context to the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). Our Chairmanship has coincided with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of this important mechanism for security co-operation in the OSCE area. Over the past two and a half decades, the Forum has proved itself as a useful instrument in transparency and confidence-building in the military sphere. A unique regulatory framework of co-operation governing the entire range of various aspects of security in the region has been developed within the Forum, dialogue takes place on a regular basis on current problems regarding security and stability on the European continent, projects are carried out to provide assistance to interested participating States in the disposal of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and conventional ammunition, along with assistance in the implementation of international commitments by participating States in the non-proliferation of WMD, in particular the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540, and co-operation with international and regional organizations.

In preparing for its Chairmanship, the Russian Federation focused on a balanced and positive approach when drawing up the programme of work for the second trimester.

We look forward to a meaningful discussion in the Forum on all the topics falling under its mandate.

Accordingly, we have tried to highlight traditional issues for the Forum as set out in its mandate, such as SALW, the destruction of stockpiles of conventional ammunition, and the FSC's contribution to work in implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. In view of the considerable interest shown by participating States during last year's High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar in the theme of the impact of scientific and technological progress on security and arms control, we have made provision for a separate meeting on that topic.

We have tried to pay particular attention to regional security issues and should like to offer you a number of presentations by designated representatives of regional organizations such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. In that connection, the SCO issues will be heard in the OSCE for the first time and will be fully in line with the recent co-operation between the secretariats of the two organizations.

Working closely with the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship, we intend to promote structured dialogue. For example, at one of the FSC meetings, we are planning to consider incident prevention, and in July, on the eve of the informal ministerial meeting, we plan to hold a joint meeting of the Forum and the Permanent Council to review the work of the open-ended Informal Working Group on Structured Dialogue.

During the Russian Chairmanship, important events such as the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference and the Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code

of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security are scheduled to be held. We hope that they proceed in a constructive manner.

As you will have noted from the wording of a number of themes that we are proposing for discussion within the framework of the Security Dialogue, there will be a certain focus on the exchange of positive national experience of OSCE participating States. We see a good opportunity here to use the FSC as a platform for examining best practices devised by OSCE participating States in the process of implementing particular commitments. In particular, mention could be made of experience in destroying conventional ammunition stockpiles, creating a reliable system of export control in the context of the implementation of the provisions of resolution 1540, and preventing military incidents at sea and in the air, and also the practice of studying the provisions of the Code of Conduct in armed forces. We hope that a free exchange of views on these issues will provide an opportunity for the subsequent dissemination of best practices.

We should like to thank the delegation of Romania for its considerable contribution to filling the Forum's agenda with interesting topics and the high degree of professionalism shown by its leadership and staff in chairing the FSC during the first session. There is no doubt that our predecessors set a high standard for the delegations that will have to chair the Forum next. For our part, we intend to continue the policy of the Portuguese and Romanian Chairmanships, which was focused on filling the agenda of the Security Dialogue with substantive issues and positive topics, aimed primarily at finding common approaches and solving problems together.

Our absolute priority is to achieve consensus through dialogue and to seek harmony on the basis of mutual benefit. As the Chancellor of the Russian Empire, Alexander Gorchakov, said in July 1861 to the Russian Envoy to the United States of America Eduard de Stoeckl: "There are no such divergent interests that cannot be reconciled through zealous and hard work [...] in the spirit of fairness and moderation".

We also hope that, in spite of the differences in the approaches of the OSCE countries to the development of a pan-European security architecture, the political will to seek compromise solutions to existing problems and ways of countering common threats and challenges will prevail in this room. It should not be forgotten that the purpose of the OSCE is to bridge dividing lines and agree on actions to combat common challenges. Here in the Hofburg, the age-old motto "viribus unitis" – "through joint efforts" – is as relevant as ever. We trust that it will also be applied to the future work of the FSC.

Distinguished colleagues,

I should like to welcome and introduce to you the co-ordinators, whose continued support and contribution to the smooth work of the Chairmanship cannot be overstated:

- Ms. Tiphaine Jouffroy, Co-ordinator for the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference;
- Ms. Isa Ghivarelli, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325;

- Lieutenant Commander Vučić Bošković, FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security;
- Mr. Vasily Pavlov, FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues;
- Mr. Hans Georg Lüber, our new Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures;
- Mr. László Szatmári, our irreplaceable FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- And the last on this list, but despite this, our very important assistant Lieutenant Colonel Ville Pouttu, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

We are open to co-operation with all interested delegations. We hope that ahead of us all are 12 weeks of interesting, intensive and fruitful work. We intend to work closely within the Troika with the Romanian FSC Chairmanship for the period January to April of this year and the future Serbian Chairmanship, which has difficult work ahead of it in the run-up to the Ministerial Council meeting in Vienna, and, of course, with the Austrian OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office.

Let me wish all those gathered here every success, and on this positive note I should like to conclude my statement.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I should like to take this opportunity to request that my statement be appended to the journal of the day.

Thank you for your attention.