

Opening Statement
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Mission of Denmark to the OSCE, IAEA and CTBTO

Forum for Security Cooperation of the OSCE
12 September 2007

It is a great pleasure for me to address you today as Denmark assumes the Chair of the Forum for Security Co-operation for the autumn session of 2007.

Before outlining our plan of work, we wish to express our gratitude to our Croatian colleagues for their commitment to this Forum during their Chairmanship. Their successes will guide us in the FSC, and we look forward to drawing on their experience in the Troika. Similarly, we wish to compliment the delegation of Cyprus as they leave the Troika for their support and co-operation – and to extend a warm welcome to Spain as the official new member of the Troika.

For Denmark to assume the Chairmanship in the run-up to the Madrid Ministerial Council is a challenging task. Especially at a time with increased focus on the OSCE due to the current debate on the security structure in Europe. However, with the efforts of all 56 participating States, the assistance of our Coordinators and Chefs de Files, the OSCE Secretariat, in particular the CPC and its FSC Support Unit, we are confident that these final months of the year 2007 will be productive.

Denmark plans to convene 15 FSC meetings including a number of Special Meetings.

Our immediate attention will be focused on the forthcoming Special FSC Meeting on “Civil-Military Emergency Preparedness” to be held on 26 September.

We are also looking forward to conducting a Special FSC Meeting on 24 October on “Existing and Future Arms Control and Confidence and Security Building Measures in the OSCE Area” as proposed by the Russian Federation, Germany and France. Needless to say, Confidence and Security Building Measures in general will have our special attention throughout the fall session.

Further, a joint FSC-PC meeting is scheduled to be held on 14 November in preparation for the Ministerial Council in Madrid. Hereby we are supporting the Spanish initiative to hold regular meetings between the FSC and the Permanent Council. Joint FSC-PC-meetings are seen as a mechanism for strengthening the synergy of these two decision-making bodies.

We look forward to open and frank discussions at the Special Meetings – and we trust that they will be conducted in a constructive spirit.

I will now turn to some of the key issues that will be tackled in the Forum during our Chairmanship. In general, our programme of work follows the

framework set out in the annual programme established at the beginning of the year. It is a product of numerous consultations with delegations as well as proposals tabled by them during the last session. We are very grateful for the contributions of participating States suggesting possible topics for discussion. The program continues to be subject to refinements, and we of course still welcome further views from delegations.

Our priorities are as follows:

Denmark continues to regard the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as the very heart of the OSCE's pol-mil dimension, as well as the OSCE as a whole. A special working group meeting earlier this year in May was dedicated to discussions on how to strengthen the implementation of the Code of Conduct and how to promote public awareness and outreach of the Code. The many proposals introduced at the meeting, and the lively discussions that followed, emphasized the strong interest in this subject.

With the appointment of Colonel Anton Eischer of the Austrian delegation as the Chair's co-ordinator, the work on the Code of Conduct has gained new momentum. We extend our sincere thanks to Colonel Eischer for having accepted the task and for the energy he has displayed. We intend to continue the work and to further improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct.

The many proposals on the Code of Conduct, which have been put forward by the participating States - are all of great importance. However, from a Danish point of view the issue of gender deserves special attention.

Denmark attaches great importance to the work that the OSCE is conducting in order to promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. We call to participating States' attention the important decisions taken by the OSCE in this regard such as Ministerial Council Decision 14/04 on the OSCE Action plan for Gender Equality and Ministerial Council Decision 14/05 on Women in Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict rehabilitation. We hope that the FSC will be able to take an early decision on a proposal, originally tabled by Sweden and co-sponsored by several other participating States, to include information on national measures and action to the before mentioned decisions in their reply to the Code of Conduct Questionnaire.

The ongoing work within the framework of the OSCE documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) is of the utmost importance. Since the adoption of the FSC assistance mechanism in 2003, the OSCE has received ten requests for assistance on SALW and/or SCA, including rocket fuel melange. Although participating States, donors, and individual persons have achieved significant progress, outstanding issues remain, and thus, we consider the OSCE's engagement a long-term commitment – especially due to the complexity and magnitude of the task.

In this respect, we would like to commend our devoted coordinators and chairmen, namely: Mr. Jernej Cimperšek, FSC Coordinator for Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and Melange, Colonel Claes Nilsson, FSC Coordinator for SALW, and Mr. Vasily Pavlov, Chairman of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW.

In support of participating States, Handbooks on Best Practices on SALW and SCA have been prepared and provided. We welcome and encourage the further development of these and other tools, which may assist participating States in dealing with the risks associated with SALW and SCA. In this respect, I can inform you that we have just tasked the CPC to develop a first draft on a Best Practice Guide on Physical Security of Ammunition.

The work within this field may be further promoted through the holding of workshops or seminars as suggested by the Director of CPC, Ambassador Salber, at the last Joint Meeting of the FSC-PC. We fully support this idea and would welcome a decision by the FSC this fall on organizing a workshop in early 2008.

We note with appreciation the expert meeting in Berlin that took place on 3 - 4 April 2007 on the subject “Enhancing controls and promoting reductions in Stockpiles of Conventional Arms and Ammunition” as well as the Special FSC Meeting on “Combating the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light

Weapons by Air”, which was held on 21 March 2007. Both events made important contributions to our ongoing work.

The implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 on non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction continues to be an area of great significance. This was clearly shown at the G8 Summit in June 2007, where the heads of State underlined the importance of full implementation of Resolution 1540 and reiterated their support for the efforts of the 1540 Committee, including the sharing of best practices.

The efforts by the UN in this field have been quite visible. On 20 August a new unit under the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs was formed in Geneva in order to strengthen the endeavours to reduce the threat to the international community posed by Weapons of Mass Destruction, not least if they fall into the hands of terrorists.

Also, last week the United Nations organized a Workshop on “Implementing UNSC Resolution 1540” in Amman, Jordan. The meeting, which was an outreach event towards The Arab League and its Member States, had a special focus on import and export controls and assistance in that respect. Further, the framework of the meeting was intended to promote co-operation between participating States and key regional organizations, such as the OSCE.

As the incoming Chair of the FSC, Denmark was invited to deliver a presentation at the meeting. In my presentation I accounted for the OSCE work so far on regional efforts to promote implementation of Resolution 1540.

I also touched upon the OSCE initiative on a Best Practice Guide for the implementation of Resolution 1540. There was a clear interest in this initiative and also more generally in the work done by the OSCE. It was seen as a good example of what regional organisations can do in this field.

For your information, my presentation at the meeting in Amman has been distributed (reference no.: FSC/DEL/470/07, 10 September 2007).

With the shared expertise within the OSCE to draw upon, it is our belief that not only more of the participating States - but also States outside of the OSCE - will be able to better address the obligations of Resolution 1540 in a timely and effective manner.

Denmark believes that this initiative is a fine example of how the OSCE can contribute to the global security dialogue and operationalize resolutions and decisions taken by other international organizations without duplicating their work and expertise.

It is my hope that the work on the 1540 Best Practice Guide will proceed, and that the first part of the guide dealing with “Export control and transshipment” will be finalised within the coming months.

The Security Dialogue serves as a strong and useful platform for the exchange of views with other international organisations, informing us of parallel initiatives and developments. As such, we regard the Security Dialogue as an effective liaison mechanism, highlighting possible areas, where the OSCE may add value to or supplement existing global initiatives.

In our opinion, the Security Dialogue is part of the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security – and participating States may feel comfortable knowing that they may raise any issue, and that their concerns will be listened to and addressed appropriately.

Similarly, we acknowledge that the FSC Working Groups shall not be limited by the length of the Security Dialogue – and we will therefore continue to streamline debate in the plenary so as to facilitate topical, timely, and focused presentations. While these presentations may serve to raise awareness of specific issues, actual negotiations are conducted in the respective Working Groups A and B – which may therefore be considered as the real workhorse of the Forum. As such we stand ready to use available timeslots and to convene meetings on Wednesday afternoons, if the need should arise.

In my concluding remarks, I wish to underline the importance of long-term goals for our work in this Forum, extending beyond the Ministerial Council meeting in November. We are a Forum whose goals are best served by employing an agenda which is continued in next year's work programme.

Our successes are based on the co-operation of all 56 participating States as well as Partners for Co-operation. Denmark will chair the Forum with a policy of open doors, inviting views and contributions of all delegations. We look forward to close co-operation with all of you, and are confident that our joint efforts will produce successful results that we may all take pride in at the end of the session.

Finally, I would like to introduce the Danish “Team” for the FSC Chairmanship. My Deputy will be Lieutenant Colonel Niels Petersen, who will chair the Working Groups assisted by Mr. Kasper Gimsing. Also I would like to introduce our trainee Miss Camilla Hagelund.

On behalf of all of us, I would like to invite you to a reception following this meeting in the adjacent room.