

Chairmanship: Poland

816th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 20 April 2016

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 1 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Bugajski

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
JOINT GOVERNMENT OF MONTENEGRO/OSCE/UNDP
MONTENEGRO DEMILITARIZATION PROGRAMME
(MONDEM)

– *H.E. M. Pejanović-Đurišić, Minister of Defence of Montenegro*

– *Lieutenant Colonel N. Luković, Ministry of Defence of Montenegro*

– *Ambassador J. Hřebíčková, Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro*

– *Ms. F. McCluney, UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro*

Chairperson, Minister of Defence of Montenegro (FSC.DEL/72/16 OSCE+), Lieutenant Colonel N. Luković (FSC.DEL/73/16 OSCE+), Head of the OSCE Mission to Montenegro, UNDP Resident Representative in Montenegro, Netherlands-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia; 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 Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/68/16), Slovenia (Annex 1), Belarus (FSC.DEL/70/16 OSCE+), Germany, United States of America, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (United States of America)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Chairperson

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (Annex 2) (FSC.DEL/67/16), Netherlands-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 Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/69/16), Canada, United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 3), Poland, Turkey
- (b) *Recent incidents in the Baltic Sea*: Canada, United States of America, Poland, Russian Federation
- (c) *Issues related to compliance with arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and commitments*: Russian Federation, Ukraine (Annex 4) (Annex 5), Georgia (Annex 6), United States of America, Turkey, Cyprus

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Invitation to informal meetings on the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures (FSC.INF/14/16 Restr.) (FSC.GAL/37/16 Restr.)*: FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinator for the Vienna Document (Switzerland)
- (b) *Workshop on arms control, held in Geilenkirchen, Germany, on 5 and 6 April 2016*: Germany
- (c) *Briefing on the outcomes of the Human Dimension Committee meeting on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, held on 19 April 2016*: FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy)
- (d) *Course on the preparation and conduct of inspections and evaluation visits, led by a Benelux Arms Control Agency mobile training team in Malta from 4 to 8 April 2016*: Malta (Annex 7)
- (e) *Matters of protocol*: Italy

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 27 April 2016, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/822
20 April 2016
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

816th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 822, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SLOVENIA

Mr. Chairperson,

Slovenia fully subscribes to the statement delivered by the Netherlands on behalf of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

I would like to welcome H.E. Prof. Milica Pejanović-Đurišić, Minister of Defence of Montenegro, to today's meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, and I thank her for the presentation.

I would also like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Nebojša Luković, Ms. Fiona McCluney and Ambassador Janina Hřebíčková for their important contributions to this Security Dialogue on the implementation of the joint Government of Montenegro/OSCE/UNDP Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM).

Finally, I would like to thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for putting the important project MONDEM on the agenda for today's meeting. In this connection, I am pleased to announce that Slovenia has decided to donate an additional 5,000 euros to the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM).

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, please attach this statement to the journal of today's meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/822
20 April 2016
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

816th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 822, Agenda item 2(a)

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 by military force 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".

We call on the Russian Federation to return to the tenets of international law and reverse the illegal occupation and 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/822

20 April 2016

Annex 3

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

816th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 822, Agenda item 2(a)

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

Dear 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.



816th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 822, Agenda item 2(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

On 10 and 11 February 2015, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IX of the Vienna Document 2011, an inspection team consisting of four Ukrainian armed forces officers inspected a specified area of the Southern Military District of the Russian Federation. The inspection area was chosen on the basis of information about a significant concentration of Russian armed forces troops and military equipment in that district.

In violation of the relevant provisions of the Vienna Document, the part of the inspection which was carried out by the Ukrainian side from the air turned out to be incomplete, with significant restrictions by the Russian side. In particular, the Russian escort team informed the Ukrainian inspectors that inspection from the air was prohibited at a distance of less than 25 km from the Russian-Ukrainian border. In addition, without the consent of the Ukrainian inspection team, the Russian side changed the route during the flight, which resulted in an exit from the inspected area at a considerable distance from the coast in the vicinity of the Gulf of Taganrog. The Russian side refused to comply with the Ukrainian inspection team's demands to return to the specified area near the settlement of Sinyavskiy. Thus, the Ukrainian inspection team was unable to observe the road and railway from Rostov-on-Don to Taganrog from the air.

The Ukrainian team was also not able to examine these areas by ground transport. Therefore, the Ukrainian side reserves the right to assume that significant military activity is being conducted in the area near the settlements of Veseloe, Kuzminki, Aleksandrovka and Kalmykov, due to the fact that part of this area was not inspected.

The Ukrainian inspection team did not observe any military activities which were subject to prior notification to the participating States during its visit to the inspection area at the sites where Russia allowed inspection. Some Russian media misinterpreted and distorted the preliminary report of the Ukrainian team, changing the content of the message. For example, the Russian media reported incorrectly on an alleged confirmation by the Ukrainian side regarding the Russian armed forces' inactive units in the Rostov region.

In accordance with paragraph 135 of the Vienna Document, the official inspection report was circulated among the participating States within 14 days of the completion of the inspection.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

816th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 822, Agenda item 2(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE

Mr. Chairperson,

With reference to Chapter III of the Vienna Document 2011, the delegation of the Russian Federation has repeatedly insisted that Ukraine provide explanations concerning alleged unusual military activities in certain areas in eastern Ukraine, the composition of the Ukrainian military formations, mobilization and so forth. For its part, Ukraine has also repeatedly responded to the questions. But the Russian delegation continues to raise these questions.

In this connection we would like to underline that in accordance with paragraph 16 of the Vienna Document, unusual and unscheduled military activities are those activities of a participating State about which another participating State expresses its security concern. That is what constitutes the letter and the spirit of the Vienna Document. Ukraine has never conducted unusual military activities directed against any other State. However, the events which have been taking place in eastern Ukraine and the attempted annexation of the territory of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula by the Russian Federation are actions directed against Ukraine and its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The position of the Russian delegation, which persists in alleging that Ukraine is not complying with its obligations, is not surprising and misrepresents the actual content of the Vienna Document provisions.

We have pointed out repeatedly that Ukraine is not conducting unusual military activities but an anti-terrorist operation, with the involvement of its armed forces. This operation was launched to defend Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity and to restore constitutional order in the temporarily occupied territories in Donbas.

We wish to emphasize that:

- There is no destabilizing accumulation of the personnel, weapons and military equipment of Ukraine's armed forces formations in the anti-terrorist operation zone. On the contrary, their presence in that zone constitutes a deterrent stabilizing factor which the aggressor State and its proxies in the so-called Luhansk People's Republic and Donetsk People's Republic are confronted with;

- At the same time, in the anti-terrorist operation zone, we note a substantial accumulation of Russian separatist forces combined with regular units of Russia's armed forces. The Russian military formed and headed the so-called 1st and 2nd Army Corps in the occupied areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts by integrating them into the regular armed forces of the Russian Federation. According to the available information, their total personnel strength exceeds 35,000 (nearly 65 per cent are Russian citizens). They are armed with up to 350 tanks, 700 armoured combat vehicles, 700 large-calibre artillery systems, including 130 multiple launch rocket systems and 60 air defence systems. Various types of weapons, including heavy armaments, spare parts, ammunition and fuel continue to be supplied from Russian territory. The Russian Federation continues to send fighters and regular units into Ukraine via an unmonitored section of the Ukrainian-Russian border. Such illegal actions have led to the highest density of military personnel and armaments per unit of area in Europe;
- Moreover, Russia concentrated almost 50,000 military groupings near Ukraine's border and has been building new military bases in the areas bordering Ukraine.

The allegations that Ukraine did not allow OSCE participating States' observers access to the anti-terrorist operation zone are unfounded. It is obvious, including from our regular FSC debates, that given the daily attacks and shelling conducted by the combined Russian separatist forces, when Ukraine's servicemen are wounded and killed almost every day, the Ukrainian side cannot guarantee the observers' security in accordance with paragraph 18.2 of the Vienna Document.

We wish to underline that the Ukrainian side, despite difficult circumstances, continues and will continue to implement all the provisions of the Vienna Document in good faith. We recall that, since 2014, Ukraine has initiated the conduct on its territory of inspections in accordance with Chapter X of the Vienna Document, in the course of which inspectors have had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the security situation, to visit the Joint Centre for Control and Co-ordination located in Soledar and to hold meetings and briefings with military commanders as well as local civil authorities.

We intend to continue this practice and again call on the Russian Federation to follow this example on a voluntary basis and receive on its territory inspections over and above the quota, primarily in the regions bordering on Ukraine. We encourage the Russian delegation to take steps in this direction.

The delegation of Ukraine requests that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/822

20 April 2016

Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

816th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 822, Agenda item 2(c)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset I would like to once again reiterate Georgia's full support for the Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity, within its internationally recognized borders.

As my country was mentioned by the Russian delegation in its statement, let me make some remarks in response. We would like to once again remind the delegation of the Russian Federation that the Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions are integral parts of the sovereign territory of Georgia, which are occupied by the Russian Federation as a result of aggression against my country. The presence of any Russian military infrastructure or forces in these regions is in grave violation of the norms and principles of the international law and commitments undertaken by the Russian Federation.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/822

20 April 2016

Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

816th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 822, Agenda item 3(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALTA

Following discussions between the International Affairs Branch of the Armed Forces of Malta and the Benelux Arms Control Agency (BACA), a Mobile Training Team (MTT) from BACA visited Malta from 4 to 8 April 2016 to deliver a course to a number of Armed Forces of Malta officers. Some of the Maltese officers had previously participated as guest inspectors in evaluations and inspections led by other participating States. Others had acted as escorts during inspections or evaluations carried out by participating States in Malta in recent years.

The aim of the BACA MTT was to ensure that by the end of the course, the Maltese officers would have acquired the necessary skills to prepare and conduct inspection or evaluation visits in other participating States.

This course was well received both by BACA, which was conducting such training overseas for the first time, and by the Armed Forces of Malta officers who had received training on the Vienna Document from an arms control agency representing three different participating States with extensive expertise.

Thanks to this valuable assistance from BACA, Malta is now in a much better position to conduct verification activities in line with its CSBM commitments aimed at a safer Europe.