

Chairmanship: Sweden

896th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 24 October 2018

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Suspended: 1 p.m.

Resumed: 3 p.m.

Closed: 4.40 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador U. Funered

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

Agenda item 1: DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE
TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION
ASSESSMENT MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 6/18 (FSC.DEC/6/18) on the dates and venue of the twenty-ninth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE: CODE OF CONDUCT – RIGHTS
OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

– *Presentation by Lieutenant General C. Whitecross, Commandant of the NATO Defense College*

– *Presentation by Major General E. G. Knyazeva, Deputy Head for Academic Affairs and Research, Military University of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation*

- *Presentation by Major General K. Eksell, Director of Human Resources, Swedish Armed Forces*

Chairperson, Lieutenant General C. Whitecross (FSC.DEL/199/18 OSCE+), Major General E. G. Knyazeva (FSC.DEL/197/18 OSCE+), Major General K. Eksell (FSC.DEL/196/18 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/196/18/Add.1 OSCE+), Austria-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 country Iceland, member of the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/203/18), Switzerland, United States of America, Canada, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy), FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Romania)

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Briefing on the military exercise “Trident Juncture 18”, to be conducted from 25 October to 7 November 2018: Norway (FSC.DEL/205/18 Restr.), Russian Federation, Finland, United States of America*
- (b) *Exercise of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) peacekeeping forces entitled “Unbreakable Brotherhood 2018”, to be conducted from 30 October to 2 November 2018: Russian Federation*
- (c) *Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/208/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/204/18), United States of America, Canada, Belarus, Russian Federation*
- (d) *Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control in accordance with Article IV, Annex I-B to the Dayton Agreement: Croatia (Annex 1)*

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Military exercise “Falcon Autumn”, conducted from 24 September to 12 October 2018: Netherlands (Annex 2)*
- (b) *Military exercise “Anakonda-18”, to be held from 7 November to 6 December 2018: Poland (FSC.DEL/206/18 Restr.)*
- (c) *Briefing on the 80th meeting (FSC.GAL/105/18 Restr.) and the 81st meeting (extraordinary meeting) of the OSCE Communications Group, held on 19 September and 17 October 2018, respectively: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

- (d) *Security Dialogue side event on “The Role of Military Commanders in the Prevention of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the OSCE”, to be held on 31 October 2018 (FSC.GAL/110/18/Rev.1 OSCE+): Sweden*
- (e) *Matters of protocol: Azerbaijan, Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 31 October 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



896th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 902, Agenda item 3(d)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CROATIA

Madam Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to present you with an overview of the status of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (concluded under Article IV of Annex 1-B to the Dayton Peace Accords), and to make use of this opportunity to remind the members of this distinguished Forum of the Agreement's political and security relevance for its States Parties, as well as for the international community as a whole.

I have the honour to give this briefing on behalf of all four States Parties: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and Croatia. The 61st meeting of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission (SRCC), which is responsible for reviewing implementation of the Agreement and includes representatives of all four Parties, is taking place today in the Hofburg.

We have instituted the custom of giving such presentations at FSC meetings, because we want to keep the Agreement in the spotlight of the OSCE community. That is where it deserves to be, in our view, since the Agreement is a textbook example of a successful post-conflict process aimed at confidence-building, and also a very efficient arms control tool. These topics, as you know, are central to the politico-military dimension of the OSCE.

It is hard to overestimate this Agreement's significance for its four States Parties.

After the end of the armed conflicts that followed the break-up of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, that is, from the mid-1990s onwards, it was at times extremely challenging to restart dialogue between the newly formed independent States and to rebuild the trust that had been shattered.

In 1996, with the help of the OSCE and international partners (the six States that made up the Contact Group), one of the key elements in the future process of finding a common language and rebuilding trust among former warring parties was established with the signing of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, which was negotiated within the framework provided by Article IV of Annex 1-B to the Dayton Peace Accords.

The essence of the Agreement is the limits it imposes on the quantities of certain types of armaments in order to establish and maintain a military balance in the region of the States Parties.

Regular inspections, whose schedule is agreed on annually among States Parties, are carried out to monitor and verify implementation of the provisions of the Agreement.

Thanks to this Agreement, the States Parties – initially with the guidance and help of the OSCE and the Contact Group States, and since 2014 on their own – have accomplished very tangible results in the area of arms control.

The significant reductions achieved in the quantities of armaments in the region from 1996 to this day, as well as the number of missions conducted, the number of objects inspected, and the gradual decrease in the number of personnel of the States Parties' armed forces, all clearly testify to the Agreement's scope and importance.

But perhaps the most important outcomes of more than two decades of implementation of this key Agreement are, on the one hand, the spirit of transparency that now prevails among the four States Parties and, on the other, their determination to co-operate and keep the Agreement viable and relevant.

All this did not happen by itself. Over the years, especially at the initial stages of implementation, there were many practical obstacles and political challenges. However, the States Parties persevered and gradually built from the inside the necessary confidence and trust.

The Agreement laid the foundations for both the military and political co-operation that is now carried out by the States Parties' verification centres and diplomatic services, respectively, through inspection missions and activities, as well as through regular meetings of the steering body of the Agreement (i.e., the SRCC).

Over the course of 22 years, the States Parties have accumulated a considerable volume of expertise and practical experience in the areas covered by the Agreement. We are ready to share this expertise and experience with partners from the OSCE community and beyond – wherever the need exists for a confidence-building mechanism of the type exemplified by this Agreement.

Now turning to the future, we are all aware of the constantly evolving political environment and the new security challenges that we face – whether terrorism, cybercrime or irregular migration flows. We need to keep adapting to respond to these challenges, both at the national and international level, through multilateralism.

The Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control came into being, after a period of great crisis and turmoil, as the result of a multilateral endeavour undertaken under the aegis of the OSCE – an endeavour whose success was made possible by the political commitment of the States Parties and partner nations.

The Agreement thrived, and still does today, because of the very concrete and practical benefits that it was able to bring, as well as thanks to the sense of responsibility, dedication and enthusiasm shown by its States Parties.

Thank you for your attention.

Madam Chairperson, I would kindly ask that this statement be attached to the official journal of the day. Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/902
24 October 2018
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

896th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 902, Agenda item 4(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE NETHERLANDS

The annual “Falcon Autumn” exercise took place in the Netherlands from 24 September to 12 October 2018. This year’s exercise involved a combined total of 2,500 troops from the Netherlands and Germany. In accordance with the Vienna Document, the Netherlands voluntarily gave prior notification of this exercise by submitting an F30 notification form on 15 November 2017 and an F25 form on 22 June 2018. We hosted observers from the Russian Federation who, *inter alia*, performed an aerial inspection from a helicopter. We also hosted observers from Switzerland, together with a guest inspector from Sweden. An important conclusion that may be drawn from this exercise is that the Vienna Document is alive and functioning, and that it is in the interest of the OSCE participating States to invest efforts into its proper implementation so that it remains fit for purpose in the future.



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

FSC.DEC/6/18
24 October 2018

Original: ENGLISH

896th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 902, Agenda item 1

**DECISION No. 6/18
DATES AND VENUE OF THE TWENTY-NINTH
ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT MEETING**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Decides that the twenty-ninth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) will be held on 5 and 6 March 2019 in Vienna.