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DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE

Statement

Large Scale Military exercises held in Azerbaijan
Forum for Security Co-operation

July 23, 2014

We would like to invite the attention of the FSC to the large scale military exercise of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan held from July 07-10, 2014, in Azerbaijan.

The Press service of the Ministry of Defense of Azerbaijan confirmed that 10.000 troops of the Armed Forces of Azerbaijan took part in the exercise.

In accordance with the paragraph 40.1.1 Chapter V of the Vienna Document 11 (**V. Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities (CMA)**), the military activity is subject of notification at least 42 days by advance notice for CMA exceeding one of the following thresholds: 9,000 troops, 250 tanks, 500 ACVs, or 250 pieces of artillery.

In this regard, we would like to express our concern, that the exercise was not properly notified despite the fact that it falls under the category of military activities subject to notification.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to recall the statement of the Armenian delegation delivered on May 14th at the 753rd session of the FSC, with regard to another large scale military exercise held in Nakhijevan Autonomus Republic from April 16-17, 2014.

Despite the pledge from the Azerbaijani delegation to return to the FSC with explanations in this regard, the promise has not been delivered on.

We call on the Azerbaijani side to comply with the commitments and obligations of the Vienna Document and refrain from the steps that jeopardize military stability, transparency and predictability in the OSCE region, particularly, in the South Caucasus.

Thank you.



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Reply

We took note of the statement of the Azerbaijani delegation.

With regard to the exercise held in Armenia in 2012, I would like to inform the FSC, that this topic has been already addressed by the Armenian delegation in time, and I'm not going to return to it again.

Concerning the military exercises held in Azerbaijan, I would like to note, that the clarifications received by the Azerbaijani delegation are unacceptable, because they cast doubt and discredit the official information provided by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Without slightest intention to politicize this technical issue, our aim is to ensure confidence and trust by full implementation of the arms control commitments and CSBMs, which are unfortunately undermined by Azerbaijani side.

We call on Azerbaijani delegation to comply with its own commitments in the spirit and in support of the military stability, predictability and transparency.

Thank you.