

Chairmanship: Luxembourg

727th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 18 September 2013

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 12 noon

2. Chairperson: Ambassador H. Wurth

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Forum for Security Co-operation, welcomed the new Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the OSCE, Ambassador Daniel Baer, the new Permanent Representative of Austria to the OSCE, Ambassador Christian Strohal, and the new Permanent Representative of Finland to the OSCE, Ambassador Katja Pehrman.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

Presentations on the Arms Trade Treaty:

- *Presentation on the Arms Trade Treaty and possible related commitments for the OSCE participating States, by Mr. R. Isbister, Team Leader, Small Arms and Transfer Control, Saferworld;*
- *Presentation on the Arms Trade Treaty and the OSCE: Which implications and what could be done to help promoting the newly adopted treaty?, by Mr. L. Simonet, independent expert, former Politico-Military Counsellor at the Permanent Representation of France to the OSCE*

Chairperson, Mr. R. Isbister (FSC.DEL/144/13 OSCE+), Mr. L. Simonet (FSC.DEL/143/13 OSCE+), Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Albania; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra and Moldova, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/147/13),

Switzerland (Annex 1), Turkey, Belarus (FSC.DEL/148/13 OSCE+),
United States of America, United Kingdom, Russian Federation, Finland

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Joint Russian-Belarusian military exercise entitled West-2013, to be held from 20 to 26 September 2013: Belarus (Annex 2), Russian Federation

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Distribution of a comparative study of small arms and light weapons (SALW)-related commitments of the OSCE against international SALW agreements (FSC.GAL/90/13):* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (b) *Matters of protocol:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Introductory briefing for new delegates to the FSC, to be held on 27 September 2013:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (d) *Briefing on the upcoming 61st meeting of the Communications Group, to be held on 25 September 2013:* Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (Annex 3)

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 25 September 2013, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



727th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 733, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND

Mr. Chairperson,

Switzerland would like to thank the Luxembourg FSC Chairmanship for organizing this security dialogue on the Arms Trade Treaty, which is proving to be very timely.

We would also like to thank Mr. Roy Isbister and Mr. Loïc Simonet for their interesting presentations and remarks. As Switzerland has been playing an active role in the Arms Trade Treaty process since its inception, I wish to make some comments.

The conclusion and adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty have been a great success. The Treaty is a strong, robust and balanced legal document with the potential to reinforce both international and regional security while promoting a responsible international arms trade. It covers a wide range of categories, including small arms and light weapons, ammunition/munitions, and parts and components. It places international humanitarian law and human rights law at the centre of the export assessment. It addresses comprehensively the security-related, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the unregulated and illicit trade in conventional arms. The effectiveness of the Treaty will however depend on the willingness of States to ensure its full implementation.

Switzerland stands ready to make its due contribution in this regard and will actively work towards the universalization and full implementation of the Treaty. Switzerland was among the first 67 Member States of the United Nations to sign the Treaty in New York, at the special event marking its opening for signature on 3 June 2013. On this occasion, I would like to inform you that my country has started the ratification process at the domestic level and seizes this opportunity to encourage others to do so, in order to ensure that the Treaty will enter into force rapidly. In addition, we are also supporting various projects to increase understanding and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Geneva-based actors have launched very promising projects in support of the Treaty's implementation. This is just one of a number of factors that would make Geneva an ideal location for the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty. No other place hosts such a concentrated network of diplomatic missions, international organizations, NGOs, inter-agency programmes, and world-class academic institutions. The Swiss Confederation would be pleased to act as host to the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty in Geneva.

The contribution of regional and subregional organizations to the Arms Trade Treaty process has been of great value. Indeed the OSCE itself, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has over the last two decades elaborated an impressive set of norms, standards and measures aimed at ensuring responsible transfers of conventional arms and curbing the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons, thereby contributing to global efforts. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the landmark document Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers adopted on 25 November 1993, which is one of the key OSCE documents addressing the issue of responsible arms transfers.

The OSCE can and should play a crucial role in the field of small arms and light weapons and the arms trade. We encourage the FSC to engage actively in supporting the Arms Trade Treaty.

In Switzerland's view, universalization and implementation are key aspects that the OSCE could address and in so doing develop possible concrete actions. Switzerland is looking forward to exchanging views on how the participating States could promote dialogue and co-operation on the Arms Trade Treaty.

I thank you for your attention, Mr. Chairperson.

I ask 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/733
18 September 2013
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

727th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 733, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform the distinguished delegations that the “West-2013” joint strategic exercise of the armed forces of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation will take place on the territory of the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation from 20 to 26 September 2013.

The purpose of this exercise is to develop the training and use of troop (force) groupings in the interests of ensuring the military security of the Union State.

A total of 12,850 military personnel will be involved during the Belarusian segment of the exercise, and around 9,400 personnel during the Russian segment.

More detailed information on this event is contained in the notifications sent by Belarus and Russia to the participating States via the OSCE Communications Network on 8 August 2013 (Formats No. CBM/BY/13/0048/F25/O and No. CBM/RU/13/0068/F25/O).

A subdivision of the 103rd detached mobile brigade of the special operations forces of the armed forces of the Republic of Belarus will participate in the Russian segment of the “West-2013” exercise.

We should also like to point out that the Republic of Belarus, acting in a spirit of goodwill and guided by the principles of openness and transparency, invited representatives of the neighbouring participating States (Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine) to familiarize themselves with the aforementioned form of military activity. The corresponding notification was sent via the OSCE Communications Network on 14 August 2013 (Format No. CBM/BY/13/0049/O).

I request that the text of this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



727th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 733, Agenda item 3(d)

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTRE**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Dear Ambassadors,
Dear colleagues,

As Chairperson of the Communications Group of the FSC, I would like to take this opportunity to announce that the 61st meeting of the Communications Group will take place next Wednesday, 25 September, at 2 p.m. in the Bibliotheksaal. As always, all delegations are welcome to attend.

During this meeting the following two main points will be discussed:

- The need for an additional server location – a secondary or failover site, if you will. The reason behind this discussion is the need for round-the-clock availability of the OSCE Communications Network;
- Dates pertaining to the annual exchange of military information in December. It is my intention to recommend the following dates:
 - Tuesday, 10 and Wednesday, 11 December: the Automated Data Exchange Workshop;
 - Thursday, 12 December: the formal hardcopy exchange for the Vienna Document 2011 and the dissemination of composite data gathered during the Automated Data Workshop;
 - It should be noted that the Communications Group is currently due to hold its 62nd meeting during this time frame, following the FSC meeting on Wednesday, 11 December. However, we will be flexible in order to take account of the ongoing Heads of Verification Centres discussions and meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for providing me the opportunity to inform the Forum about these important issues. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.