

Chairmanship: Armenia

979th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 9 June 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 12.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Papikyan
Ms. L. Grigoryan

The Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the technical modalities for the conduct of FSC meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in FSC.GAL/31/21 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: REGIONAL SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS: COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION (CSTO)

– *Presentation by Mr. S. Zas, Secretary General of the CSTO*

– *Presentation by Ms. H. M. Schmid, Secretary General of the OSCE*

– *Presentation by Mr. V. Biyagov, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the CSTO*

– *Presentation by Ms. I. Kovalchuk, Deputy Director, First Department of CIS Countries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation*

Chairperson, Mr. S. Zas (FSC.DEL/228/21 OSCE+), Secretary General (SEC.GAL/81/21 OSCE+), Mr. V. Biyagov (FSC.DEL/223/21), Ms. I. Kovalchuk (FSC.DEL/221/21), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; 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/230/21), United States of America (Annex 1), Belarus (FSC.DEL/222/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (Annex 2), Tajikistan (FSC.DEL/224/21 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Turkey (Annex 3), Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan (Annex 4)

Point of order: Azerbaijan (Annex 5) (FSC.DEL/225/21), Chairperson

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/229/21 OSCE+), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/231/21), United States of America, United Kingdom (Annex 6), Canada (Annex 7)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Military exercise “Momentary Response 2021”, to be conducted from 17 to 27 June 2021*: Serbia (Annex 8)
- (b) *Tenth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, to be held via video teleconference on 16 June 2021*: Chairperson
- (c) *Logistical modalities for the 980th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the 731st meeting of Working Group A, to be held via video teleconference on 23 June 2021*: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 23 June 2021, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/985

9 June 2021

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

979th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

The United States would like to thank the Armenian Chairmanship for organizing this Security Dialogue on "Regional security arrangements and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)". We would also like to thank today's speakers for providing their insights.

There is no doubt that strong and co-ordinated action by regional organizations has the potential to strengthen the responsiveness, agility, and breadth of the international community's response to the many challenges faced by the participating States of the OSCE. But in order to realize this potential, regional organizations must represent the interests and freely exercised sovereign will of all of their members, not just the will of a select few, and they must act in accordance with international obligations and OSCE principles and commitments.

All of us gathered here today are acutely aware that the challenge of anticipating and effectively responding to armed conflict and transnational threats goes beyond the capacity of any one State; therefore, international co-operation is essential. Moreover, the OSCE embraces a comprehensive concept of security as reflected in the Helsinki Final Act's principles that guide relations among States, including principles regarding respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We also recall that the OSCE's 1999 Istanbul Declaration included a Platform for Co-operative Security, which committed the OSCE to work co-operatively with those organizations and institutions whose members individually and collectively adhere to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the OSCE principles and commitments set out in the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Helsinki Document 1992, the Budapest Document 1994, the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and the Lisbon Declaration on a Common and Comprehensive Security Model for Europe for the twenty-first century, along with other international obligations and commitments.

As we consider enhancing co-operation between the OSCE and specific regional organizations, it is imperative to ensure that in the process OSCE principles and commitments and international law obligations are respected and strengthened, not undermined and eroded.

When participating States question whether or not a regional organization merits engagement with the OSCE, we must ask ourselves, *inter alia*, (1) whether the policies and actions of the organization in question advance the purposes and principles of the OSCE; (2) whether the organization's decision-making genuinely represents the freely exercised sovereign will of its member States; and (3) whether the organization exhibits the capacity not only to respond quickly and effectively to regional crises, but to do so in a manner consistent with OSCE principles and international law. These are the standards that we expect a regional organization must uphold. The CSTO must establish its credentials as such an organization.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and please attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/985

9 June 2021

Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

979th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to express our gratitude to the Armenian Chairmanship for organizing today's meeting and the opportunity to hear first-hand assessments of the activities of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO). We warmly welcome the Secretary General of the CSTO, Stanislav Zas, the Secretary General of the OSCE, Helga Maria Schmid, the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the CSTO, Victor Biyagov, and the Deputy Director of the First CIS Department at the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Irina Kovalchuk, whom we also thank for their highly informative presentations on the current activities of the CSTO and on potential areas in which these might be developed further.

Russia greatly appreciates the fact that the CSTO's activities have been reflected in the programme of the Armenian Chairmanship and that it is already the third time over the past few years that they have been discussed at the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). This presents a good opportunity to share with the distinguished OSCE participating States information on the tasks facing the CSTO.

Throughout its history, the CSTO has demonstrated its ability to react in a timely and appropriate manner to the changing global situation. Amidst a quite complex security situation, the CSTO Member States have made convincing efforts to ensure that the Organization is able to provide a sure response to any attempts to disrupt peace and stability in its area of responsibility. The measures taken by the CSTO are of a purely defensive and proportional nature, do not go beyond the Organization's purview, are consistent with the international obligations of its Member States, and are based on the principle of the priority of political and diplomatic means in conflict resolution and settlement as enshrined in the Collective Security Treaty and the CSTO Charter. It should be emphasized that the Organization adheres strictly to the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of other States, mutual respect and equality.

One of the signs of the effectiveness of and demand for the activities conducted by the CSTO is the fact that various State agencies from countries that are not members of the Organization regularly join in these activities. For example, some NATO member countries

take part in the Kanal (Channel) operation, which is conducted every year by the CSTO and has to do with combating drug trafficking.

There can be no doubt that tackling security challenges is a topic of interest for all CSTO Member States and OSCE participating States, since the real work of these organizations is focused on countering a wide range of transnational threats. In this respect, it is encouraging that relations are developing between the CSTO and the OSCE in the form of co-operation between their relevant structures dealing with counter-terrorism and anti-drug work, as had been announced in the document of the CSTO Council of Foreign Ministers of 14 June 2009 entitled “Priority areas for the development of co-operation between the CSTO and the OSCE”. In our view, it is important to continue working in the spirit of that document on other areas of co-operation that it lays out. There is every opportunity to do so.

The current global instability calls for the capacities of States and international organizations to be pooled: political differences between them must not serve as a justification for rejecting co-operation.

I should like to recall the Open Address by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the CSTO Member States to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the NATO Member States on strengthening mutual trust and developing co-operation, adopted in Bishkek on 22 May 2019. It has been distributed at the OSCE. We once again urge that this “window of opportunity” be used to resolve the most pressing issues of common concern.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the FSC journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/985

9 June 2021

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

979th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Today's Security Dialogue topic is "Regional security arrangements: Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO)".

Our delegation came to the meeting looking forward to acquiring a deeper understanding of the activities of the CSTO and its co-operation with other international organizations.

In this regard, we are grateful for the insightful presentations of Secretary General Mr. Stanislav Zas, OSCE Secretary General Ms. Helga Maria Schmid and Ms. Irina Kovalchuk.

However, we regret to note that the Armenian panellist only participated in today's session in order to provoke.

He also mentioned my country's name.

He pursued the well-known Armenian campaign of disinformation and hybrid attacks against Turkey.

We completely reject these groundless allegations against Turkey.

The attitude of the Armenian panellist is unfortunate, to say the least.

It exploits and misuses the OSCE forums.

It runs counter to the requirement for courtesy in diplomacy.

This attitude does not provide security. It is not a dialogue either.

We will not honour Ambassador Biyagov with responses to his provocations and hate speech against Turkey.

Yet the Chairmanship – acting on behalf of the 57 participating States – should have shown greater resolve to sustain a constructive spirit here in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

We regret that the Chairperson failed to intervene accordingly.

It is the duty of all, but first and foremost of the Chairperson, to maintain the dignity of this august body.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



979th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, the delegation of Azerbaijan welcomes to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) those of our keynote speakers who in their presentations adhered to the topic at hand and to co-operative principles of the Forum. We thank them for their informative presentations.

In reaction to the highly non-constructive statement of the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) full of misrepresentation of facts and baseless allegations against Azerbaijan reflecting the current position of the Armenian delegation to the OSCE rather than of a keynote speaker who is supposed to contribute with his knowledge and expertise to strengthening the work of the Forum, we would like to stress the following.

Azerbaijan, as a non-aligned and non-block OSCE participating State, has always regarded the OSCE as a major pillar of the pan-European security architecture and custodian of the fundamental principles guiding inter-State relations. We view the Organization's role as indispensable for the realization of the vision for Europe without dividing lines and zones of influence.

We had consistently advocated for increased engagement of the OSCE in eliminating the harsh consequences of the armed conflict that was imposed on us due to Armenia's aggression and undermined the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of Azerbaijan for nearly three decades before the last year's counter-offensive of Azerbaijan's armed forces put an end to it and restored our infringed sovereignty and territorial integrity.

We still do believe that the OSCE holds significant comparative advantages for establishing rules-based international order in the European continent due to its unique concept of comprehensive security and broad membership, which also includes all Member States of the CSTO. It is the collective responsibility of all participating States to transform this potential of the Organization into practice by defending the fundamental principles it is built on, in particular those related to the respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of States.

Building security and restoring confidence among the OSCE participating States is possible only through unconditional respect for these principles which are enshrined in the core OSCE documents, starting from the Helsinki Final Act. These foundational principles constitute the very basis for our co-operation and are not subject to any re-interpretation or re-negotiation. They must be observed and implemented equally and unreservedly without any exception.

For a non-aligned and non-block country as Azerbaijan, the importance of the OSCE and strict compliance by its participating States with the aforementioned fundamental principles gains particular relevance and value amidst the continuing erosion of multilateralism and growing rivalry among politico-military blocks. Against this background, the indivisibility of security underpinned in fundamental OSCE documents needs to be strictly adhered to and implemented in practice.

Having said this, when it comes to the CSTO and extremely non-constructive views that we just heard from the Armenian keynote speaker, we have to remind the Forum of a long-standing record of grave violations by the CSTO's Member State Armenia of the aforementioned foundational principles. Three-decade-long occupation of the sovereign territories of Azerbaijan by Armenia and numerous crimes committed by Armenia in the course of this occupation as well as during the last year's 44-day war is illustrative to this end and, I believe, well known to all participating States. Thus, I will refrain from going into the detailed account of these violations.

However, in the context of the last year's war, it must be emphasized that Armenia repeatedly tried to drag the CSTO into its war of aggression against Azerbaijan. Of course such attempts by Armenia fell short of the OSCE's values and principles and represented a brazen attempt to misuse the politico-military block for advancing illegitimate territorial claims and aggression in gross violation of the OSCE's fundamental principles and commitments. Fortunately, these attempts proved to be futile, and the CSTO, despite Armenia's consistent attempts to misuse it, did not get involved in the conflict happening on the sovereign territory of Azerbaijan. The armed conflict as such came to a close last year with the signing of the 10 November 2020 trilateral statement by the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation, which was also referred to by the Secretary General of the CSTO in his keynote speech.

Against this background, it is essential to ensure that all CSTO Member States in their activities strictly adhere to the fundamental norms and principles of international law, in particular those related to the respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of States.

Another worrying example of Armenia's attempts to misuse the politico-military block for its illegitimate purposes is this country's most recent efforts to drag the CSTO into the incidents happening on Armenia-Azerbaijan State border. In this case, we witness futile attempts by Armenia to involve the CSTO into the bilateral border disagreements under the allegation of violation of Armenia's "sovereignty" and "territorial integrity" by Azerbaijan. Perhaps the only positive element of these recent attempts by Armenia is that this country finally started to use the language of international law, of the concepts of sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, involving the politico-military block into the border

disagreements between the two countries is counterproductive and may undermine fragile peace in the region emerged with the signing of the trilateral statement on 10 November 2020.

Disagreements over a State border are bilateral in nature and have to be resolved in a peaceful manner through politico-diplomatic means, and not through threats to resort to the use of force – as we heard from high-ranking Armenian officials, or through attempts to drag the politico-military block to the border issue which would have aggravated the already fragile situation in the region. The way out of the current disagreements over border lies in its demarcation and delimitation, as we stated repeatedly. In this regard, we welcome the proposal of the Russian Federation to establish commission for demarcation and delimitation of the entire State border between Armenia and Azerbaijan. We expect Armenia to reciprocate and demonstrate a similarly constructive position.

Having restored its territorial integrity, Azerbaijan has repeatedly expressed its determination to normalize relations with Armenia on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders.

Establishment of good-neighbourly relations on this basis has no alternative for long-term peace and stability in the region. Both sides have a unique chance to build such relations through consistent implementation of the trilateral statements signed by their leaders. As it was expressed at the highest level, Azerbaijan is prepared to work with Armenia on the peace treaty based on the recognition of each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Such an approach would of course be in compliance with fundamental OSCE principles and commitments and would only strengthen the overall security of the OSCE area.

In a relatively short period of time since the signing of the 10 November trilateral statement, Azerbaijan has taken several steps to demonstrate its true intention of normalization of relations in practice. This includes the smooth operation of Goris-Qafan road, a section of which runs through the territory of Azerbaijan. Almost immediately after the end of hostilities the Azerbaijani side opened the transportation communications, including railways and international airports, for humanitarian supplies to the Armenian population of the former conflict zone. Azerbaijan has also provided its infrastructure for natural gas supplies from Russia to Armenia in view of difficulty encountered in operation of the transit pipeline through the territory of Georgia.

Azerbaijan expects reciprocity and the same political will and concrete steps from Armenia. Regretfully, at present, it seems like Armenia finds more comfort in confrontation-based approach and zero-sum mentality and treats opportunities for peace as challenges. Keynote statement of Armenia's Permanent Representative to the CSTO is, unfortunately, indicative to this end.

On a final note, we would advise Armenian Permanent Representative to the CSTO to listen to the assessment of the Secretary General of the CSTO who in his keynote presentation gave a positive account of the overall situation in the region after the signing of the trilateral statement. Indeed, the ceasefire largely holds and there is a unique opportunity for consolidating a fragile peace that emerged with the signing of the trilateral statement.

Thus, instead of continuing to recycle its obsolete conflict narratives, voice baseless allegations against Azerbaijan and undertake destructive actions aimed at aggravating the already sensitive situation, Armenia should capitalize on the opportunity for establishing durable peace, security and stability in the region. Azerbaijan is eager to embark on post-conflict reconciliation and normalization of inter-State relations with Armenia, as we emphasized on numerous occasions, yet for that we need also good will and reciprocity by the Armenian side.

I request this statement as well as my previous points of order 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/985

9 June 2021

Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

979th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the 973th meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) we emphasized that the FSC Chairmanship should assume a neutral and impartial attitude in the conduct of our meetings and Security Dialogues. Panellists invited by the Chairmanship to contribute to our discussions should refrain from confrontational rhetoric. Regrettably, today, we are again compelled to interrupt the statement of a keynote speaker invited by the Chairmanship, as it continues to infuse into the FSC a spirit of confrontation instead of constructive discussion that could strengthen the work of our Forum.

Thus, we call upon the FSC Chairmanship to demonstrate a truly neutral, impartial and balanced approach and fulfil its Chairmanship task, which is to strengthen the FSC's role as a platform for mutually respectful dialogue and co-operation, not for the promotion of confrontation and the furthering of divides. We call on the FSC Chairmanship to intervene with the presentation of the keynote speaker and bring it into order and into line with the co-operative principles and purposes of the FSC.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



979th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. This statement is delivered under the topic raised by Ukraine.

The United Kingdom remains concerned at the continued tensions caused by the recent increased Russian military activity on Ukraine's border and in illegally annexed Crimea. Russia has publically confirmed that these large-scale military activities were conducted at no notice and without notification.

Whilst some of the Russian forces appear to have returned to their permanent base locations, some five weeks following the deadline announced by Russia for the withdrawal we remain concerned by reports which indicate a significant number of forces remain concentrated in proximity to the Ukrainian border and in illegally annexed Crimea.

We continue to be disappointed that the Russian Federation did not, and still chooses not to, engage constructively using the OSCE processes and mechanisms available to provide necessary transparency and de-escalate the situation. This includes addressing Ukrainian concerns regarding the military build-up near its borders and in illegally annexed Crimea under Chapter III of the Vienna Document. This is despite repeated calls from fellow participating States on Russia to address these valid concerns and provide transparency.

So, we must ask, why does Russia refuse to engage constructively in line with, and in the spirit of, its obligations as a Vienna Document signatory? Its lack of action in this regard does little to build confidence and trust in the region; and deliberately sows uncertainty.

Madam Chairperson,

The United Kingdom again calls on Russia to use the OSCE processes and mechanisms available, including through briefings in this forum, to provide the necessary transparency to address the valid concerns of participating States, including on the withdrawal of its forces, and so de-escalate the situation.

Last week we highlighted the terrible human cost of the widespread prevalence of mines, unexploded ordnance and other explosive objects in the Russian-instigated and Russian-fuelled conflict in eastern Ukraine. Sadly, the Special Monitoring Mission to

Ukraine's (SMM) weekly report of 1 June provided yet further evidence of this, after the Mission corroborated four more civilian casualties, including a child, injured due to explosive objects.

In the same report, the SMM also corroborated the death of a man from a gunshot wound after he went to check on a power line in the Trudivski area of Donetsk city. This sad case illustrates that as well as the danger from explosive objects, continued ceasefire violations still threaten the lives of civilians. So far, in 2021, the SMM has confirmed six civilian casualties due to small arms fire and four due to shelling, in addition to the 23 casualties caused by explosive objects.

This demonstrates the unacceptable threat to civilians posed by the gradual upward trend of ceasefire violations that we and others have been noting in this forum. We call for an urgent recommitment to the ceasefire to prevent any further suffering and call on Russia to match Ukraine's constructive approach in the Trilateral Contact Group in this regard.

The impartial, facts-based monitoring provided by the SMM is crucial in building the international community's understanding of these worrying developments. Yet the SMM is continuing to face denials on the freedom of movement of its patrols, overwhelmingly in areas held by the Russia-backed armed formations, and interference with its technical equipment.

Also in its weekly report of 1 June, the SMM reported that its unmanned aerial vehicles had faced signal jamming on 86 occasions – the highest number ever experienced by the SMM in one week. We condemn this unacceptable violation of the SMM's mandate.

In the context of high levels of signal jamming experienced by the SMM, we note that there continue to be sightings of electronic warfare systems in non-government-controlled areas. Most recently, on 29 May the SMM observed an electronic warfare system, RB-636V Svet-KU, in non-government-controlled Novoazovsk, close to the uncontrolled segment of the Russia-Ukraine State border. Despite repeated questions posed to them in this Forum, the Russian delegation has yet to give an adequate explanation of the presence of such unique Russian equipment in Ukrainian territory or how such equipment, which requires specialized training, is being operated.

We call on Russia to withdraw its military personnel and weapons from the territory of Ukraine; to cease its support for the armed formations it backs; and to stop access restrictions and intimidation of the SMM in areas held by Russia-backed armed formations.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, the United Kingdom reiterates our condemnation of Russia's ongoing militarization of Crimea, the Sea of Azov and the Black Sea. The recent deployment of large numbers of Russian forces to illegally annexed Crimea and the subsequent large-scale exercise was provocative, aggressive and wholly unacceptable. We also reiterate our deep concern at the Russian Federation's decision to impose restrictions on some areas of the Black Sea, including the approaches to the Kerch Strait, from 24 April until October. These actions are unjustified and destabilizing.

The United Kingdom strongly supports Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters. We do not and

will not recognize Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea. The United Kingdom has consistently stood with Ukraine in opposing all instances of Russian aggression towards Ukraine and we will continue to do so, including through sanctions, together with our international partners.



979th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

We remain deeply disturbed by Russia's continued evasive behaviour, lack of transparency, and failure to address legitimate concerns about their unprecedented build-up of military force on the illegally occupied Crimean peninsula and along the eastern borders with Ukraine. We reiterate our call for the Russian Federation to participate constructively in efforts to de-escalate tensions, to engage in risk reduction mechanisms provided in the Vienna Document and to abandon its tactics of denial and distraction. Aggressive, deceitful, and opaque behaviour does nothing to bely the concerns of others and shows a blatant disregard for our shared confidence- and security-building measures.

We also remain deeply concerned by the continued high number of ceasefire violations continuing week after week. Once again, whilst facilitating operation of the Donetsk filtration station, the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) has observed explosions and small arms fire within a five kilometre radius of the station. This violent activity directly threatens the provision of clean water to more than 380,000 and deepens the humanitarian crisis. Heavy weapons are still being sighted in violation of withdrawal lines, whilst dozens of tanks, howitzers, and mortars have been observed outside their designated storage sites. Also of concern are reports of ceasefire violations inside and close to the Zolote and Petrivske disengagement areas.

Russia must direct the armed formations that it supplies, leads, and fights alongside to cease their provocative actions, such as the recent extension of trench systems along the contact line. Some of these trenches are now barely 200 metres from Ukrainian positions; such close proximity clearly raises the risk of serious incidents taking place.

Life for civilians in eastern Ukraine remains grim. Although the Ukrainian Government has now been operating the entry-exit checkpoints near Zolote and Shchastia for months, the corresponding checkpoints of the armed formations remain closed, making movement across the line of contact unnecessarily difficult. Mines continue to exact a terrible toll. On 7 April a man stepped on an object in Zhovte, Luhansk, which exploded – he lost his left leg. And on 1 May a man and a woman were injured when they walked over explosive objects near Horlivka, Donetsk; they both suffered injuries that resulted in amputations.

Mr. Chairperson,

The SMM must be given safe and unhindered access throughout Ukraine, in order to fulfil its mandate. The ongoing restrictions on the Mission's freedom of movement, almost always in non-government-controlled areas, must stop. Attempts to disable the SMM's technical assets are clearly an effort to mask nefarious activity on the ground and they must end; interference with the SMM and its equipment is absolutely unacceptable and must stop immediately. SMM unmanned-aerial vehicles (UAVs) were interfered with on 27 occasions during this past week constituting over 50 per cent of all UAV sorties. Now sadly routine, GPS signal interference was again regularly directed at SMM UAVs, and yet another mini-UAV was lost on 31 May when control was lost due to jamming. Russia's disingenuous calls for the SMM to intensify efforts to locate Ukrainian EW systems are just another facet of a relentless disinformation campaign.

There is no doubt where the interference targeting the SMM originates from. We again call on Russia to explain the presence of its advanced Zhytel electronic warfare system in eastern Ukraine as well as the presence of RB-636V Svet-KU, imaged again on 29 May near Novoazovsk, in a non-government controlled area. It is also worth noting that our questions regarding the presence of Russian UAZ Usaul armoured vehicles in the non-government controlled area, are, as of yet, unanswered. We asked these questions several weeks ago and the proof is undeniable. A picture is, in fact, worth a thousand words. We once again renew our call on the Russian Federation to explain the presence of its sophisticated military equipment in non-government controlled areas of Donbas.

Mr. Chairperson,

Crimea and the city of Sevastopol remain a part of Ukraine in accordance with international law. We denounce Russia's blatant violation of Ukrainian sovereignty, and deplore the impact that the conflict has had on the populations of eastern Ukraine and Crimea, and on the overall security situation in the broader Black Sea region.

We remain particularly concerned about restrictions to freedom of navigation in some regions of the Black Sea, in particular the approach to the Kerch Strait, which Russia has imposed for a six-month period. These restrictions continue what is effectively a blockade of Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov, continue to exacerbate the economic hardship of people living in eastern Ukraine and are deliberately provocative and deeply destabilizing.

Canada remains unwavering in its support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including its navigational rights in its territorial waters. We will continue to exert pressure, including through ongoing sanctions, until the Russian Federation completely fulfils its commitments and obligations undertaken in accordance with the Minsk Agreements, including the withdrawal of all armed units, military equipment, and mercenaries from Ukraine, and the return of full control of the border to the Ukrainian Government.

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/985

9 June 2021

Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

979th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 985, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Madam Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Allow me to inform you that in the period from 17 to 27 June 2021, at the Pasuljanske livade, Orešac, Borovec and Međa military compounds and the Pešter and Titel temporary training areas, as well as at Deliblato Sands, the Republic of Serbia is going to conduct the national joint live-fire exercise “Momentary Response 2021”.

The Republic of Serbia announced the exercise in its notification CBM/RS/21/0004/F25/O submitted yesterday.

The general purpose of the exercise is to show the determination, competence, firepower and high level of synergy and co-operation of the units of the Serbian Armed Forces in responding to challenges, risks and threats to the security of the Republic of Serbia.

The tactical objectives of the exercise are to train Serbian Armed Forces units in conducting tactical activities and procedures during combat operations and in the successful carrying out of firing tasks in different terrain and weather conditions, as well as to enhance synergy among the units of the Serbian Armed Forces.

The holder of responsibility for the conduct of the exercise is the Army Command of the Serbian Armed Forces.

The exercise is to involve all components of the Army, the Air Force and Air Defence, and the special units of the Serbian Armed Forces.

This announcement of the upcoming activity of the Serbian armed forces, although not obligatory under the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011, is an expression of goodwill and support on the part of the Republic of Serbia with respect to building confidence and security both in the region and in the OSCE area.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.