

Chairmanship: Iceland

640th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 23 March 2011

Opened: 10.05 a.m.

Closed: 10.25 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. I. Davidsdóttir

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Meeting between the Secretary of Defense of the United States of America and the Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, held on 22 March 2011: United States of America (also on behalf of the Russian Federation)

Agenda item 2: SECURITY DIALOGUE

None

Agenda item 3: DECISION ON DESTRUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

Chairperson

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 3/11 (FSC.DEC/3/11) on destruction of conventional ammunition, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Chairperson, Belarus (Annex 1), Denmark

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) *Suspension of the issuance of permits for the export of weapons and military equipment from Bosnia and Herzegovina: Bosnia and Herzegovina (Annex 2)*

- (b) *Multinational assessment visit to Kyrgyzstan from 14 to 18 March 2011:*
Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (c) *Preparations for the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine, to be held in Vienna on 24 and 25 May 2011:* Chairperson
- (d) *Distribution of the report on the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), held in Vienna on 27 and 28 January 2011 (FSC.GAL/39/11):*
Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 30 March 2011, at 3 p.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/646

23 March 2011

Annex 1

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

640th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 646, Agenda item 3

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BELARUS

Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the decision by the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) on the destruction of conventional ammunition, the delegation of the Republic of Belarus would like to note the following.

Belarus interprets the term “destruction” in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the operative part of the decision in accordance with the Best Practice Guide on the Destruction of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DEL/59/08/Rev.1), approved by FSC Decision No. 6/08 of 18 June 2008, not only as disposal of surplus conventional ammunition by means of open detonation, burning or some other directed force of impact that is detrimental to the environment, but primarily as utilization by technological means, with the appropriate equipment. It is this method of disposal of surplus conventional ammunition that the Republic of Belarus regards as the most acceptable from both an environmental and an economic point of view.

The Republic of Belarus is taking great pains to destroy surplus conventional ammunition. A specific State programme for the utilization of conventional ammunition has been under way since 1996. Under that programme, a centre for the utilization of artillery and engineering ammunition and a centre for the utilization of air-launched weapons were established and are in operation.

I would ask for this statement to be attached to the journal of the meeting.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/646

23 March 2011

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

640th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 646, Agenda item 4(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Madam Chairperson,

In recent months, the OSCE participating States have been discussing the arms exports by Bosnia and Herzegovina to Azerbaijan and Armenia. In light of these discussions, many delegations have expressed their views and positions on the issue.

Taking into account all the circumstances, United Nations resolutions and other international regulations, the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina at its extraordinary session on 17 March 2011, adopted a decision requiring the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia and Herzegovina to suspend the issuance of permits for the export of weapons and military equipment from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We believe that this decision will further contribute to the confidence- and security-building measures within the OSCE area.

Madam Chairperson,

We would like this statement to be attached to the journal of today's FSC meeting.

Thank you.

640th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 646, Agenda item 3

**DECISION No. 3/11
DESTRUCTION OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) (FSC.DOC/1/03, 19 November 2003), that refers to nationally owned holdings,

Noting the recommendations included within the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DEC/6/08, 18 June 2008),

Recalling the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (FSC.JOUR/49, 25 November 1993),

Acting on the conclusions of the FSC Chairperson's progress report submitted to the seventeenth Ministerial Council meeting in Athens that introduces "a preference to destroy surplus conventional ammunition, rather than to sell it",

Decides:

1. To enhance implementation of the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition by recognizing destruction as the preferred method of disposal:
 - The surplus of conventional ammunition where the participating State has responsibility to assess in accordance with its legitimate security needs whether its stockpiles are to be identified as surplus as indicated in Section III of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. However, if a participating State decides that a transfer is the preferred method of disposal of its surplus conventional ammunition, such a transfer will respect the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers;
 - Expired conventional ammunition, unless the participating State with responsibility for such ammunition determines there is storage life extension beyond that recommended by the manufacturer;

- Obsolete conventional ammunition where the participating State with responsibility for such ammunition assesses that the ammunition is operationally unusable or unmanageable;
- 2. To encourage participating States to contribute on a voluntary basis to assist participating States who request provision of assistance in the destruction of their surplus, expired or obsolete conventional ammunition;
- 3. To annex this decision to the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition and publish it with it.