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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE

I should like to make a statement on behalf of the following countries: Germany, the United States of America, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Czech Republic and Turkey.

The text of the statement reads as follows:

“We reaffirm our commitment to the CFE Treaty as a cornerstone of European security and to the early entry into force of the adapted Treaty, which would permit accession by new States Parties. The 3rd Review Conference underscored the vital importance we attach to the CFE Treaty and we are determined to maintain our constructive approach to conventional arms control. Fulfilment of the remaining Istanbul commitments on the Republic of Georgia and the Republic of Moldova will create the conditions for Allies and other States Parties to move forward on ratification of the Adapted CFE Treaty. We welcome the important agreement signed by Russia and Georgia on 31 March 2006 on the withdrawal of Russian forces, and the progress made since then. We note with regret the continued lack of progress on withdrawal of Russian military forces from the Republic of Moldova and we call upon Russia to resume and complete its withdrawal as soon as possible.”

The countries subscribing to this statement request its inclusion in the official documents of this Ministerial Meeting.