

1114th Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation**Opening remarks****Secretary General, Feridun H. Sinirlioğlu****Hofburg, 17 September 2025**

Thank you, Chair,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by commending Finland for taking on a second gavel this year. It is a major sign of your commitment to this Organisation simultaneously to chair both the Permanent Council and the Forum for Security Co-operation. Thank you. I wish you, as well as your team, every success in guiding the FSC's work over the coming months as we navigate an historically challenging period for our collective security.

Distinguished delegates,

The FSC remains the OSCE key decision-making body and forum for dialogue on politico-military aspects of security. It has developed instruments that make it indispensable for risk reduction, providing a dedicated venue for participating States to discuss security concerns, reduce tensions, and clarify issues.

In 1975, competing military blocs came together in Helsinki to address growing risks of miscalculation leading to catastrophe. They understood the risk we were all living under, and decided to address it through dialogue. As I said a few weeks ago in Helsinki, dialogue is always possible. In days like these, it is vital; and it is our collective responsibility today to ensure that our commitment to meaningful dialogue remains.

This is the pre-requisite for effective diplomacy.

Our predecessors found common ground in cooperation, transparency, openness, and regular dialogue to foster peace, security, and stability in Europe. In recent years, we have fallen short of that standard. Our top priority today must be to end armed conflict, first and foremost the war in Ukraine. We must recommit to our shared Helsinki principles, to all of them, without picking and choosing those we like more, and slowly start rebuilding Europe's security architecture for the next 50 years. This requires honest reflection on how we arrived at the current situation.

Here in the FSC you can contribute to this effort by examining how we might ultimately rebuild mechanisms focused on transparency, risk reduction, and de-escalation. The CSCE and its successor have a long and distinguished history in this area. We have accumulated vast expertise and experience.

I encourage all delegations to bear this in mind as we look to the future - without losing sight of the causes for the deplorable deterioration in the security environment we see today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Fifty years ago, it was recognized that Europe needed a platform for mutual accountability, dialogue, and security. We have built it over half a century, and now, more than ever, we need it. I urge every participating State to make full use of the Forum for Security Co-operation as a key element of the OSCE framework, steadfastly advancing us toward a more stable and predictable security environment.

Let me close by wishing Finland every success in guiding the Forum to reach its full potential. Participating States can rely on the full support of the Secretariat in this endeavour.

Thank you.