
Chairmanship: Switzerland**912th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 3 April 2019

Opened: 11.05 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3.10 p.m.
Closed: 4.45 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador C. Wild

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON THE OSCE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY: “AWARENESS-RAISING, DISSEMINATION, BETTER IMPLEMENTATION, AND OUTREACH”

- *Presentation by Ms. M. Wohlfeld and Mr. D. Lutterbeck, Co-Directors of the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies (MEDAC), University of Malta*
- *Presentation by Mr. H. Hänggi, Deputy Director, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)*
- *Presentation by Mr. A. Lambert, Academic Director, Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies (GIGS)*

Chairperson, Mr. D. Lutterbeck, Ms. M. Wohlfeld, Mr. H. Hänggi, Mr. A. Lambert, Romania-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/77/19), Malta (Annex), Slovakia, United States of America, Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/80/19 OSCE+), Ukraine (FSC.DEL/81/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/79/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation, OSCE

Parliamentary Assembly, Armenia, Cyprus, FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (Italy), FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (Romania)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/82/19 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/82/19/Add.1 OSCE+), Romania-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 Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/78/19), Russian Federation, Canada, Belarus, United States of America

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Briefing on the military exercise “Arrow 19”, to be conducted in Finland from 6 to 17 May 2019*: Finland
- (b) *Draft letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council on the dates of the 2019 Annual Security Review Conference (FSC.DEL/71/19 Restr.)*: Chairperson, Armenia

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 10 April 2019, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



912th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 918, Agenda item 1

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF MALTA

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for giving me the floor.

Malta fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union but my delegation wishes to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

We thank the Swiss FSC Chairmanship for proposing this very timely discussion as we approach the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Our thanks also go to the panellists for their very interesting presentations and the insights they shared with us.

Malta strongly believes that the Code of Conduct to this day remains an extremely relevant and useful instrument for improving transparency and promoting mutual confidence-building between States. The Code really does deserve to be described as a “hidden jewel” among OSCE documents, because its adoption in December 1994 was a veritable milestone with regard to governance of the security sector. One of its key strengths lies in its cross-dimensional approach, that is, in how it addresses the politico-military dimension simultaneously with the human dimension. Furthermore, the Code emphasizes such values as co-operation and the rule of law (at both the national and international level), as well as the importance of arms control and disarmament.

The Code of Conduct has proved to be not only a useful instrument within the OSCE area, but also a valued “export”, serving partly as the inspiration and model for the development of similar norms and provisions beyond the OSCE area and the regions of the OSCE Partners for Co-operation, notably in the Africa region.

Mr. Chairperson,

As Malta has reiterated on several occasions, the security of Europe is inextricably linked to that of the Mediterranean region, and so it has been long before the inclusion of the “Mediterranean chapter” in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

It was with this in mind, and in the firm conviction that exporting the principles of the Code of Conduct would benefit both the OSCE participating States and the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, that, back in September 2013, Malta, together with the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre,

hosted the first-ever Regional Conference on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for the Mediterranean Region. The conference raised awareness of the norms and principles enshrined in the Code among the OSCE Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, and enabled the OSCE participating States to share with them practical examples and experiences related to implementation of the Code.

We were pleased to see that this reaching out to the Partners for Co-operation was followed up with further conferences in Tunisia and Jordan, and that the Mediterranean countries have demonstrated sustained interest and participated at a high level in these activities. In that respect, we welcome the translation of the Code of Conduct into Arabic in 2013, and are delighted to note that Tunisia is currently developing new national regulations that reflect the Code's provisions.

We encourage the Mediterranean Partners to continue drawing inspiration from the Code of Conduct as they shape, regulate and reform their national security sectors. We stand ready to continue providing all the assistance that our Partners may require in this endeavour, but would nevertheless like to stress that the provision of assistance should be guided by the principle of national ownership by the partner States, and should be conducted with due respect for the specific national and regional circumstances, including local sensitivities.

The above-mentioned outreach activities have also helped to highlight some of the Code's limitations, notably with regard to its applicability to private military companies and non-State actors. We concur with the recommendation made at the Malta conference in 2013 to include civil society when and where appropriate in the process of ensuring proper governance of the security sector, and we appreciate all the efforts undertaken to ensure that the Code becomes a baseline tool for confidence-building in the OSCE area, including the Mediterranean.

Malta will continue to sensitize all stakeholders – *inter alia*, through other regional forums such as the Western Mediterranean Forum (or "5+5 Dialogue") – with a view to contributing to transparent implementation of the Code at all stages of security sector governance.

At the regional seminar to be held in Cyprus next month we look forward to continuing our work under FSC Decision No. 1/08 on awareness-raising and outreach of the Code of Conduct.

Mr. Chairperson,

We are conscious of the fact that implementation of the Code of Conduct is at present considered mostly from the perspective of counter-terrorism. However, the Code has much more security substance to offer beyond its relevance to counter-terrorism efforts. Malta therefore stands ready to support a broader approach to implementation of the Code of Conduct and wishes to point out that such an approach would help to reinvigorate confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) in the OSCE area.

Looking ahead, Malta supports the idea of compiling best practices in the implementation of CSBMs, especially with regard to suggestions on how to involve the various national stakeholders. All such suggestions should be aimed at promoting

capacity-building (in particular, among high-level policymakers), thereby leading to a strong multiplier effect.

Mr. Chairperson,

Adherence to the above-mentioned politico-military commitments cannot be taken for granted, and even in the OSCE area itself there remains plenty of work to be done if we are to ensure that they are fulfilled properly.

Before concluding, allow me to thank the Swiss, German and Austrian Governments for their financial support without which the OSCE's outreach activities in the Mediterranean region and other Code-related projects would not have been possible.

I kindly request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.